Kilili backs Manglona nomination before US Senate committee. PAGE 2
Ex-DOC commissioner, ex-inmate settle. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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NMI ENCOUNTERS SINCE 2020

'123 opioid misuse cases, 6 overdoses'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Omar

Since 2020, there have been a total of 123 encounters of confirmed and suspected opioid misuse and a total of six overdoses involving opioids, according to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday.

Of these encounters, Naloxone was administered for five overdose cases and two misuse cases, according to Eleanor Cabrera, director of development at the executive office of CHCC.

Naloxone is a medication used to reverse or reduce the effects of opioids.

Cabrera brought up opioid misuse and overdoses in expressing CHCC's support of two bills involving opioids during the House of Representatives Health and Welfare Committee meeting.

See OPIOID on Page 4

'A vast majority of gov't employees' financial stability drastically impeded

» Salas says OPM should be allocated percentage of indirect costs revenue because of its important role

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth's tight financial condition has greatly affected government revenues and has drastically cut into the financial stability of a vast majority

See GOV'T on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Office of Personnel Management director Frances Salas gestures as she explains in this screen grab from YouTube about OPM's important role and why it should be allocated a percentage of indirect costs revenue during the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee meeting yesterday.

Suspect in drug case turns himself in

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $10,000 cash bail on a drug defendant who allegedly turned himself in after he saw his picture on Facebook that was posted on the Department of Public Safety page.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho

See SUSPECT on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho yesterday imposed a $10,000 cash bail on drug defendant Steven Villagomez Pangelinan, a man who was allegedly caught on surveillance in possession of drugs, specifically methamphetamine back in October. He allegedly turned himself in on Nov. 6, after he saw his picture on the Department of Public Safety's Facebook page.

Work to dismantle IPI's 3 tower cranes should start this week

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A company hired by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC should start this week dismantling not two but three tower cranes from IPI's unfinished casino/resort project in Garapan, according to IPI manager/director Howyo Chi.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry about IPI's cranes, Chi disclosed yesterday that Ocean Bee LLC should finish dismantling tower cranes Nos. 5, 6, and 1 in two to four weeks.

In related news, Yvonne B. Tenorio, the acting Building

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Chi

INSIDE

LOCAL
NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero has been invited to join the Higher Education Thought Leaders Advisory Group.
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NATION
President Joe Biden lately has begun painting a vision of a catastrophic future for the U.S. if Donald Trump returns to the presidency.
PAGE 11

ASIA
President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Philippines said the situation in the South China Sea "has become more dire."
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Local

Kilili backs Manglona nomination before US Senate committee

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has backed U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's nomination when the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee deliberated last week on her nomination to serve a second 10-year-term for the District Court for the NMI.

Sablan appeared with Manglona during the committee's confirmation hearing in Washington, D.C., during which he gave his message in support of Manglona and asked the committee to confirm her nomination.

"As the sole elected representative of the Marianas, I support the nomination and confirmation of Judge Manglona," he said.

Sablan shared that Manglona's seat has been occupied by men who were not even from the Marianas for many years. Since her first confirmation, Manglona became the first Chamorro and first female chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI, bringing a sense of pride to the Marianas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Last week, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona appeared before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee in Washington, D.C. for her confirmation hearing to serve another term on the federal bench.

"As a trailblazing first woman and first person of Chamorro decent to sit on the federal bench in the Marianas, Judge Manglona has demonstrated that neither attribute is an impediment to excellence nor to the faithful execution of her duties to maintain the integrity of the law. I speak for many others in our community when I say it is a sense of pride when we see one of us sitting as the District Court judge for the NMI," he said.

For the past 10 years, Manglona has proven to be an impartial and thoughtful judge and has become a respected member of the federal judiciary, Sablan said.

"During her tenure, she has participated in hundreds of cases and also exhibited a deep respect for the United States Constitution and the rule of law," he said.

Sablan also noted that Manglona's commitment to the CNMI community has been commendable, and it was seen following the back-to-back super typhoons the islands have faced as well as a global pandemic.

"While maintaining court operations under these difficult circumstances, she also managed to coordinate the transition to a new federal courthouse. She also founded the bandwidth to establish the district's first evidence-based drug court program," he said.

In closing, Sablan encouraged the committee and its members to recommend to the entire U.S Senate that Manglona be confirmed for another term.

"Members of the committee, I respectfully ask you to agree that Ramona Manglona continue to serve as the chief judge and that you submit your full recommendation to the Senate for confirmation," Sablan said.

Manglona was first nominated by then-U.S. President Barack Obama back in 2009—at Sablan's recommendation—and was renominated last September by current President Joe Biden.

Unlike most federal district court judges, who have lifetime appointments, the Marianas District Court judge, as well as those in Guam and the Virgin Islands, receive 10-year terms.

Hawaii's Shriners hospital to hold outreach on Saipan

In collaboration with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Shriners Hospitals for Children-Honolulu will conduct outreach clinics on Saipan from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, 2023, at the CHCC Children's Clinic for scheduled patients.

To qualify for care through Shriners Hospitals for Children, the patient must be below 18 years old and have an orthopedic condition that can be treated. Orthopedic conditions that have been treated by Shriners include:

- Scoliosis
- Clubfeet
- Foot pain and problems
- Hip dysplasia
- Hand pain and problems
- Knee and joint pains
- Cerebral palsy
- Musculoskeletal conditions
- Syndromes associated with musculoskeletal disorders

For new patients, an intake form must be completed prior to scheduling an appointment. For more information and to schedule an appointment:

- Families on Tinian can call Maricel Cabarles, Tinian Health Center, at (670) 433-9233/9333.
- Families on Saipan and Rota can call Shiella Marie P. Deray, CSHCN program manager at (670) 236-8709 or (670) 783-1613, shiella.deray@chcc.health.

Care is provided to the child regardless of the family's ability to pay and there will be no co-pay or facility fee charged to patients for evaluations and consultations with Shriners providers. However, there may be charges incurred for other services such as ultrasounds, X-rays, and CT scans.

The Shriners Hospital of Honolulu has satellite clinics throughout the state of Hawaii and islands in the Pacific basin. The CHCC Children's Clinic serves as a Shriners Hospital satellite clinic for the residents of the CNMI.

Shriners Hospitals for Children aims to provide the highest quality care for orthopedic and neuromuscular disorders and conditions.

Doctors and staff of the Shriners Hospital of Honolulu are committed to improving the lives of children in the Pacific region and are specialized in bone, joint, muscle, and sports injuries.

Staff from Shriners who will be participating in these outreach clinics include Dr. Jonathan Pellett (orthopedic physician); Vena Joco, APRN (orthopedic nurse practitioner); and Sandy Zukeran (outreach coordinator).

For more information about Shriners Hospitals for Children-Honolulu, visit their website at

https://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/honolulu. ***(CHCC)***

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MUNICIPALITY OF SAIPAN / SEIPEL
UNITED STATES NOV. 4, 1986
The Saipan Mayor's Office invites you to be a part of
CHRISTMAS AT THE PARK
Decorating Contest!
Cash Prizes Included!
1ST PLACE: $500
2ND PLACE: $300
3RD PLACE: $200
Organizations interested in decorating an area at Sugar King Park are encouraged to contact the Saipan Mayor's Office!
saipanmayorrbcamacho
saipanmayor.cnmi.gov
2799 Teer Drive, Suite A Saipan, MP 96950 Tel.: (670) 234-6208 Fax: (670) 234-1190

Ex-DOC commissioner, ex-inmate settle

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Department of Corrections commissioner Wally Villagomez has reached a settlement agreement with former DOC inmate Price Shoiter in the inmate's suit against DOC and its officials alleging denial of adequate medical care.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI dismissed with prejudice last week Shoiter's suit against former DOC officials Villagomez and Georgia Cabrera in their personal capacities and the CNMI government after the parties notified the court that they have officially reached a settlement.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Former Department of Corrections commissioner Wally Villagomez is shown in this file photo.

Dismissal with prejudice means the lawsuit cannot be refiled.

Under the settlement agreement, Villagomez will pay Shoiter $15,000 in monthly installments for five years, with an interest rate of 4.5% compounded annually.

As for Cabrera, the agreement is that she will pay Shoiter a total of $1,500 at a rate of $150 every two weeks.

The CNMI has agreed to pay Shoiter a total of $48,500 in monthly installments for six months through the Dotts Law Office. That means the CNMI will pay Shoiter $8,083 every month.

The first payments from Villagomez, Cabrera, and the CNMI are due on Dec. 15. If a defendant fails to pay or is late in payment, Shoiter is to notify the defendant who is late and provide 15 days' time to cure the late payment.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Senior Judge Alex Munson dismissed the case, but retained jurisdiction to enforce the settlement.

Villagomez and Cabrera will bear their own attorneys' fees and costs.

"All motions before the court are hereby terminated and the hearing on Cabrera's motion for summary judgment is vacated. The bench trial set before Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona for Dec. 12. 2023, is vacated," said Munson.

Shoiter, a 74-year-old Chuukese national, was sentenced in 2016 to 10 years in prison for sexually abusing a 7-year-old girl.

He later sued DOC officials, alleging denial of adequate medical care.

Shoiter was in DOC custody beginning on Nov. 15, 2015. On Jan. 6, 2023, former governor Ralph DLG Torres granted him clemency and his sentence was commuted to time served, subject to the condition that Shoiter is removed from the CNMI.

On May 6, 2023, he was released to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which removed him from the CNMI.

Chamber thanks IP&E for supporting Toys for Tots campaign

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce expresses its sincere appreciation to Chamber member IP&E for their generous monetary donation to the 2023 Toys for Tots Campaign.

Toys for Tots is a cherished initiative aimed at bringing joy to children during the holiday season by collecting and distributing toys to those in need. This year, the chamber is proud to partner with the First Lady Wella Foundation, the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, the CNMI Women's Affairs Office, and the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College. Together, we collaborate with the U.S. Marine Corps to ensure that every child experiences the magic of Christmas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Chamber of Commerce member IP&E donates to the 2023 Toys for Tots Campaign.

Traditionally, the campaign allocates funds to address gaps in toy collections, focusing on age and gender groups where there is a need. However, due to financial constraints this year, resources are limited.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to IP&E for their generous monetary donation, which significantly contributes to our ability to give back to the community. Their support enables us to continue the tradition of spreading holiday cheer to children in the community," said a Chamber news release yesterday.

For more information about the Toys for Tots Campaign or to contribute, email saipantoys4tots@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Federal Employees
and Annuitants
ENROLL with TakeCare!
OPEN SEASON
NOV. 13-DEC. 11, 2023
Keep more money in your pocket during these challenging financial times by enrolling in TakeCare's High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) Option this open season.
Here's some great reasons to choose TakeCare's HDHP Option:
Very affordable payroll deduction
as low as $17.90/pay period (self only)
annual savings of $1,260.48 over TakeCare's High Option, Self Only, even more if you're covering dependents.
Health Savings Account (HSA) qualified plan
$447.28 deposited tax-free into your HSA annually, Self Only, even more if you're covering dependents. Use the money to help pay your deductible, cost shares
Wellness Incentives
earn up to $600 in cash incentives during the year (self only)
To learn more making the smart move to getting healthcare coverage and keeping money in your pocket, go to http://tiny.cc/TakeCareHSAFAQs or scan QR Code:
Featuring Coverage* for as low as $17.90/pay period!
*HDHP Option, Self Only
Customer Service (670) 235.0994
Our Island, Your Health Plan℠
AAAHC
ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION for AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE, INC.
TakeCare℠
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takecareasia.com
Connect with us

Public hearing today for Saipan solid waste management plan

The CNMI Office of Planning and Development on behalf of the Inter-Island Solid Waste Management Task Force invites you to a public hearing today, Nov. 21, from 6pm to 7pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center to share your thoughts, voice your concerns, and learn more about the CNMI Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan.

To view the latest draft of the CISWMP, give your thoughts on the plan, and more, please visit https://opd.gov.mp/ciswmp.html.

The CNMI CISWMP charts a sustainable path forward for the CNMI's solid waste, spanning the development, operations, and maintenance of compliant landfilling, recycling, and composting facilities for Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands. It includes supporting activities such as education and outreach, conservation, and more.

"Together, we can preserve our Commonwealth's beauty and precious resources for future generations through effective, sustainable solid waste management. Get involved and be part of the CISWMP development process!" the OPD said in a statement.

If you have any questions about this upcoming outreach event or the CISWMP or wish to be added to a mailing list to receive solid waste management planning updates, call OPD at (670) 233-2673 or send an email to joshua.santos@opd.gov.mp.

This public hearing will be a hybrid event that will be facilitated in-person and online. If you wish to attend virtually, please send an email to joshua.santos@opd.gov.mp prior to the public hearing date to receive a meeting link. ***(PR)***

SUSPECT

From page 1

imposed yesterday a $10,000 cash bail on Steven Villagomez Pangelinan, who was allegedly caught on surveillance in possession of methamphetamine back in October. He allegedly turned himself in on Nov. 6, after he saw his picture on the Department of Public Safety's Facebook page.

Pangelinan, 56, is currently facing a possession charge.

During his bail hearing yesterday, Pangelinan's defense noted that he should be allowed to be released without bond and under his own recognizance since he had turned himself in to the police.

Camacho denied that motion and said that he would reconsider the bail requirement if Pangelinan can propose an eligible third-party custodian.

Following the bail hearing, Camacho remanded Pangelinan back to Department of Corrections custody and ordered him to return to court on Nov. 27 for a preliminary hearing. Pangelinan's arraignment was set for Dec. 4 at 9am before Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja.

According to court documents, DPS received a call on Oct. 31 from the Koblerville Mobil gas station reporting the recovery of an illegal substance.

At the scene, the caller showed police two Ziploc baggies wrapped in paper towel that were filled with what appeared to be a crystal-like substance. The substance later tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine.

Police officers went back to the establishment on Nov. 2 to review the surveillance footage.

The footage allegedly showed that on Oct. 31, 2023, at around 1:49pm, a local male, later identified as Pangelinan, park his car at one of the pumps before going inside. While walking into the establishment, police noticed a square object stuck between Pangelinan's left heel and shoe. Police noted that the object remained on Pangelinan up until he exited the establishment and that's when it fell on the ground where an employee later found it.

On Nov. 6, DPS' front desk received a call from Pangelinan stating he saw himself on Facebook and wanted to clear his name.

At around 2pm, police interviewed Pangelinan and showed him photos from the surveillance footage. Pangelinan confirmed he was the man in the footage but the drug did not belong to him.

WORK

From page 1

Safety official of the Department of Public Works, asked Ocean Bee LLC last Nov. 8 to submit three documents for DPW's review and approval before it starts removing the cranes.

DPW Secretary Ray N. Yumul concurred with Tenorio's request to IPI.

The requested documents are bonding insurance, list of employees hired for the work, and timeframe for dismantling the tower cranes.

In a letter to He Guo Qiang, who is the general manager/contractor for Ocean Bee LLC, Tenorio said that they received its contract agreement with IPI for the removal of the "dilapidated tower cranes" on IPI's facility in Garapan.

Tenorio said Ocean Bee LLC's contract to remove/dismantle tower cranes No. 5, No. 6, and No. 1 is an opportunity for IPI to resolve these safety issues.

Last Oct. 5, Tenorio issued a notice of actual and immediate danger to IPI, requiring that crane No. 5 be deconstructed/or disassembled as it poses an imminent threat to public safety and properties.

Crane No. 5, which looms over Hibiscus Street between the IPI casino/resort building and Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center, has reportedly not been used since December 2020.

Chi told the casino commissioners during the Commonwealth Casino Commission board's meeting last month that IPI has hired Ocean Bee to dismantle tower cranes Nos. 5 and 6 at no cost to DPW or the CNMI government.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios stated last week that the remaining one of two cranes atop IPI's resort/casino project needs to be removed immediately as it poses a large liability for the Commonwealth.

OPIOID

From page 1

Rep. Malcolm Jason Omar (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House Health and Welfare Committee, is the principal author of H.B. 23-23 and 23-25.

H.B. 23-23 seeks to establish CNMI Drug Overdose Policy; to authorize and mandate first responders to possess opioid overdose reversal medication; to authorize standing orders for opioid overdose reversal medication; and to provide limited immunity for dispensing opioid overdose medication.

H. B. 23-25 proposes to amend provisions of the CNMI Good Samaritan Act to protect and encourage opioid overdose reversal administration by granting limited immunity from civil liability.

The committee later agreed to recommend the passage of the two legislations.

While there has not been a surge of opioid misuse and overdose in the CNMI and the Commonwealth has not been struck by opioid overdose fatalities, Cabrera said these encounters are indicators that the CNMI is not unaffected by these concerns.

She said the CNMI should enable its healthcare system and first responders to be prepared in critical gaps of time to reverse an opioid overdose and save a life.

"We can all agree that even one single substance opioid overdose fatality in our small community will be too many," the director said.

She said the two legislations have the potential to have a profound impact on prevention and response measures.

Cabrera said Good Samaritan amendments to protect individuals, including first responders, that will allow them to administer Naloxone during an overdose emergency are critical components.

She said ensuring that Naloxone is readily available to first responders is also addressed in the bill.

Overall, Cabrera said, authorizing the use of Naloxone is a critical strategy to keep the CNMI protected from the opioid epidemic that has claimed too many lives in the U.S. and territories.

Three years ago, Cabrera was part of a team at CHCC to establish a CNMI-wide prevention and surveillance measures of opioid and other substances misuse, abuse, and overdose. Essential public education campaigns were initiated to raise awareness about the dangers of opioids, risk of overdose and the availability of Naloxone.

Cabrera said systems were put in place to track and monitor encounters in emergency rooms and health centers across the CNMI involving opioid and other drug misuse and overdose as well as the administration of Naloxone to reverse symptoms of opioid overdose.

GOV'T

From page 1

of government employees, according to Office of Personnel Management director Frances Salas yesterday.

Chief of what is causing this was the cut in work hours, but Salas said this was necessary in order to preserve jobs.

"The need to cut work hours was unavoidable if the government departments were to remain open to continue to serve the general public," Salas said.

She said some government employees, however, were luckier than others as their employment is funded by federal grants and remained at 80 hours every two weeks.

The OPM director talked about the CNMI's current financial condition in her comments before the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee on House Bill 23-56 that seeks to use the remaining 60% of indirect costs revenue or reimbursement by fiscal year collected for each grant to address the CNMI government's financial deficit.

The House of Representatives passed the legislation last June.

According to the bill, 40% of indirect cost reimbursements from grants are directed to the Office of Grants Management, while the remaining 60% is not currently directed to any specific program.

After hearing comments and answers from Salas and other resource persons, Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), who chairs the Fiscal Affairs Committee, tabled House Bill 23-56.

Manglona said committee members had concerns over OGM administrator Epiphanio E. Cabrera Jr.'s proposed allocation of the percentages as well as several amendments.

Additionally, Manglona said, they received comments from OPM and the Civil Service Commission that would support their argument for these percentages.

He said, though, that some committee members have questions as to the allocation of percentages and why some entities are receiving a certain percentage compared to what other divisions will receive.

Manglona said they will summon Cabrera to answer some of these questions before the committee.

Among the amendments to the bill that Cabrera had recommended is the designation of indirect cost reimbursements.

Cabrera suggested that OPM would get 5% and the Civil Service Commission, 2.5%.

Salas explained why OPM should be allocated a percentage of these indirect administrative costs.

She said all government employees—specifically within the executive, legislative, and judicial branches and the municipalities—are processed through OPM from start to finish.

Salas also gave the same pitch in past budget submissions—for the administration to mandate the OGM to allocate funds to OPM on a quarterly basis to assist and augment the financial needs of the office.

Salas said OPM currently operates at a 70-hour work period. With the allocation of indirect administrative costs, she said OPM will begin to regain the 80-hour work period to continue the work needed to ensure all employee documents are properly reviewed, approved, and entered into the system for payroll.

Salas said that, based on her analysis for this fiscal year, if OPM could get a share of the indirect cost revenue, that's $107,000 that will keep the office at 80 hours for the whole year.

She said OPM is a vital component of the entire processing of employment documents. She said there are critical sections within OPM that review and ensure compliance with local and federal employment laws for all federally funded and locally funded employees.

Salas provided the outline of employment process to illustrate the importance of OPM's role and why OPM should be afforded funding from the indirect administrative costs as OPM's responsibility is administrative in nature.

She requested the committee to consider passing legislation that will allocate at least 5% to 10% of the indirect administrative costs to OPM.

This, Salas said, assures OPM is given the needed resources to continue providing services to all government employees.

"We are at 70 hours per bi-weekly pay period. And it really hinders our staff when things begin to pile up and we cannot get everyone entered in a timely fashion," she said.

Lujan sworn in as federal Public Defender for Guam

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Leilani V. Lujan, right, signs her appointment papers as the first Chamorro female federal Public Defender for Guam and the CNMI.

A daughter of Guam, Leilani V. Lujan, has been formally sworn in as the first Chamorro female federal Public Defender for Guam as well as in the nation.

Appointed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of John Gorman, Lujan served as an assistant federal Public Defender since 2013.

In addition to her public service experience, Lujan has over a decade of criminal litigation experience, practicing law in the private sector in Hawaii before returning home to Guam.

Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood said, "Ms. Lujan is a zealous advocate who always represents her client to the best of her razor-honed abilities. Not only is she a skilled attorney but she genuinely respects and has compassion for those she serves. There is little doubt that Ms. Lujan will continue her legacy of public service in meeting the challenges and responsibilities of this appointment."

A public and more formal swearing-in ceremony for Lujan will be held in January 2024. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Leilani V. Lujan, right, is sworn in as the first Chamorro female federal Public Defender for Guam as well as in the nation.

Bootcamp registration deadlines extended

Guam Community College Continuing Education and Workforce Development has extended registration to those interested in either the Truck Driving V Bootcamp or the Medical Home Health Aide (Caregiver) V Bootcamp to Friday, Nov. 24, 2023. Both bootcamps are free to those who meet the requirements.

Requirements:

- Able to work in the United States
- 18+ years old
- High school graduate or equivalent
- Meet health clearance
- B Class License (for truck driving bootcamp only)
- Unemployed or underemployed

Completers of the Caregiver bootcamp will earn a certificate of completion/credentials in Medical Home Health Aide OSHA 10 (Healthcare), Heartsaver/First Aid/CPR, Work Ethic, and WorkKeys NCRC. This bootcamp also serves as a pathway to GCC's Allied Health Programs. They have the option to continue their educational journey by pursuing programs such as an Associate of Science in Medical Assisting, an Associate of Science in Practical Nursing, certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant, or obtaining certification as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). All these programs are available at GCC allowing for a smooth transition. Caregivers offer essential assistance to individuals who are ailing or elderly. Graduates of the bootcamp program will possess the skills to deliver care in various settings, including private homes, clinics, and hospitals.

» Submit applications for Caregiver or Truck Driving Bootcamps on Nov. 24

Truck Driving completers will earn a certificate of completion and receive nationally recognized certifications in OSHA 10, Work Ethic, and WorkKeys. Participants will learn everything they need to earn their certificate and pass their Department of Revenue and Taxation Division of Motor Vehicles Class C License test. Commercial truck drivers are in high demand on Guam and across the nation. The GCC Truck Driving Boot Camp V gives successful completers the training and knowledge needed to enter this in-demand, high-paying industry.

To register contact GCC's Continuing Education and Workforce Development department at 671-735-5640 extension 5411, or email workforce@guamcc.edu. The CEWD office is located on campus in Building 2000, you may visit Monday through Friday between 8am and 5pm, except on holidays. ***(GCC)***

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Attorneys for Petitioner Leonora A. Blas

IN THE SUPERIOR COURTOF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PEDRO SANTOS BLAS, Deceased,	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0237** **NOTICE OF PETITION TO APPOINT ADMINISTRATRIX AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION** **Date: December 14, 2023** **Time: 10:00 a.m.** **Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho**

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, AND CREDITORS OF PEDRO SANTOS BLAS, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Leonora A. Blas has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition to Appoint Administratrix and for Letters of Administration in the abovecaptioned matter. The attorney of record representing Petitioner is Cong Nie of the Law Firm of Banes Horey Berman & Miller, LLC, P.O. Box 501969, Saipan, MP 96950.

The petition is set for hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at the CNMI Superior Court, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any person who has any objection to the petition may file his or her objection with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing to present such objection or interest in the above captioned mater.

Creditors and all persons having claims against the Decedent or of his estate are hereby notified that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2023.

/s/
Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at 8 a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (10/13/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
- 2023 Citizens Centric Report
- CNMI IRT24 (Innovative Readiness Training) Initial Planning Meeting
- Online Payment Update

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
- Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Regulations for Final Adoption

XI. New Business
- HCPLB Regulating Fertility Clinics

XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
- Jennifer Retsinas – Physician
- Ivory Joyce Palmitos – Baccalaureat Social Worker – Examination Request

B. Renewal Application
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS
MOBILE CLINIC SCHEDULE
NOV 15 29
Adult Health Check
Update on personal medical history, blood pressure check, glucose check, resources & referrals
Northern Marianas College , Finasisu from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
Java Joes, Dan Dan from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
NOV 14 22
Child Health Check
For children 0-17 years old. Measurements and growth, anticipatory guidance, resources & referrals
San Vicente Youth Affairs, San Vicente from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
Han Nam Supermarket, Koblerville from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
NOV 17 21
Women's Health Check
For women who haven't seen a healthcare provider longer than 1 year, pap smears, breast exams, pre/post partum care, resources & referrals
Karidat, Dan Dan from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
Koblerville Youth Center from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
NOVEMBER IS DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH
WHAT TO BRING:
INSURANCE CARD (Medicaid and most private insurances accepted)
VALID PHOTO ID (Driver's license, Passport, Mayor's ID, etc.)
(670) 287-9926/9927/9929
www.chcc.health
@cnmichcc

NMC to host free info session on Rota today

Individuals on Rota who are interested in furthering their education and attaining a degree with the Northern Marianas College are encouraged to attend NMC's free information session today, Nov. 21, 2023.

The session will be held at the Rota NMC Campus at 3pm. This event will cover information on the admissions application process, financial aid, and academic programs and services.

NMC staff will be available at the info session to assist new or returning students interested in attending the Spring 2024 semester.

Additionally, participants of the info session will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming Spring 2024 semester, a savings of about $75.

Incoming students who have attended a Start Smart Seminar, Cash for College, or Climb Higher Seminar in the past year can avail of having their application and placement test fees waived for the Spring 2024 semester.

Interested students can pre-register for the info session through the link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdutZV_tww-JszD5CwzqReqW90mh-4p_Zg8_y7-sqjtEu5tEdw/viewform?usp=sf_link

NMC's Spring 2024 semester will begin on Jan. 16, 2024. All prospective students are encouraged to submit their application by Jan. 6, 2024. For more information, please visit www.marianas.edu or contact the NMC Rota Center at (670) 433-0657. ***(NMC)***

Water service interruption in As Matuis today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be an urgent water service interruption for customers in As Matuis today, Nov, 21, from 8:30 am to 12:30pm.

The purpose of the urgent water service interruption is to allow CUC water operators to repair a leak at the Booster Station in As Matuis.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to our customers.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

Deleon Guerrero invited to join higher education advisory group

NMC

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

Northern Marianas College president and University of Southern California alumni Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero has been invited to join the Higher Education Thought Leaders Advisory Group hosted by USC Rossier School of Education dean Pedro A. Noguera.

Noguera, on behalf of USC Rossier, is spearheading the establishment of an advisory group composed of distinguished alumni leaders in higher education. The primary objectives of this group include the sharing of cutting-edge research and policy initiatives conducted at USC Rossier, informing impactful strategies in service to students, institutions, and systems, fostering a network of leaders in higher education, and addressing critical issues and policy initiatives related to educational equity and USC Rossier's mission.

Deleon Guerrero has been specifically invited to contribute his expertise and insights to this visionary initiative. Noguera expressed the desire for Deleon Guerrero to play a vital role in the advisory group, emphasizing the importance of his perspective in shaping the future of higher education, especially for Pacific Island institutions.

"I am honored to be part of this distinguished group of leaders in higher education," Deleon Guerrero said. "I look forward to contributing to meaningful discussions and collaborative efforts that will shape the landscape of higher education for the better."

For more information, email nmc@marianas.edu ***(NMC)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP24-CHCC/HIT-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOV. 27TH, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"INSTALLATION OF SECURITY DOOR SYSTEM"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
RFP24-CHCC/HIT-EMR/EHR-002

"COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CERTIFIED ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT"

Notice to Offerors

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the "Community Health Center Certified Electronic Health Record Implementation Project" (RFP24-CHCC/HIT-EMR/EHR-002) is available on this website; **https: //www.chcc.health/RFP/requestforproposal.php.**

Issuer Information
This RFP is issued by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) of the Northern Marianas Islands, 1178 Hinemlu St. Garapan, Saipan MP 96950.

Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal
Interested offerors must email a "Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal" to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Procurement Director, Cora Ada, at cora.ada@chcc.health as soon as practicable. This notice ensures that all interested parties receive relevant information on RFP updates or questions. While this step is crucial, it does not bind the offeror to make a submission. If an interested offeror fails to submit a notice of intent, they acknowledge and accept the risk of potentially missing crucial information.

All notices of intent to submit a proposal must include the RFP number (RFP24-CHCC/HIT EMR/EHR-002) and project title, "Community Health Center Certified Electronic Health Record Implementation Project", in the subject line. The content of the email should state the Offeror organization name, at least one primary email contact, and a brief statement of intent to submit a proposal.

Communication Protocol
Questions about this RFP will only be received in writing via email to CHCC Director of IT, Bel Busby at bel.busby@chcc.health and CHCC Procurement Director, Cora Ada at cora.ada@chcc.health with the RFP number and project title as the subject. Questions communicated verbally may not be answered. Offerors must avoid direct communication about this RFP with other CHCC staff members.

RFP Timeline
- Deadline for Offeror questions is **3:00 P.M. (Chamorro Standard Time), December 7th, 2023.**
- Final proposals must be submitted as docx or pdf attachments via email to Cora.Ada@chcc.health and must be received by **4:30 P.M. (Chamorro Standard Time), December 15th, 2023.**
- Late proposals won't be accepted.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
NMHC RFP 2024-002

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: December 06, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Architect-Engineer Services for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program Infrastructure Projects

Architect-Engineer Services for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program Infrastructure Projects

The RFP packet is available on November 21, 2023, online at www.nmhcgov.net and at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com by clicking on the "Procurement Tab". All interested firms shall submit their intent to participate via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

This procurement is in accordance with the NMHC Procurement Regulations. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with NMIAC §100-60-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) of the NMHC Procurement Regulations. To also include the provisions of NMHC Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section §100-60-725 & § 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov-.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

ANTONIO SN. BORJA, Chairman · JAMES M. MENDIOLA, Vice Chairman · HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS, Member · DONALD M. HOFSCHNEIDER, Member · CHARLENE M. LIZAMA, Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
1. October 19, 2023 – Regular Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. REPORTS
a. Chair's Report
b. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino

V. NEW BUSINESS
a. Internal Control System of the Tinian Diamond Casino
b. ED Recommendation No. 2023-04

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]

VII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Konfitma Training 2023

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services first responders hone their response skills during the 2023 Konfitma training that concluded last Nov. 15.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local first responders work on their intercommunication skills during the 2023 Konfitma training that concluded last Nov. 15.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

For the first time since the inception of Konfitma, Department of Corrections officers were invited to participate and hone their response and intercommunication skills during the 2023 Konfitma training that concluded last Nov. 15.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Firefighters respond to real-life scenarios to hone their response skills during the 2023 Konfitma training that concluded last Nov. 15.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Department of Public Safety SWAT team hones their response skills during the 2023 Konfitma training that concluded last Nov. 15.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local high school students participate as actors during the 2023 Konfitma training that concluded last Nov. 15.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services responders attend to a Department of Corrections officer who was held hostage following a simulated hostage-taking scenario as part of the 2023 Konfitma training that concluded last Nov. 15.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Firefighters hone their response skills during the 2023 Konfitma training that concluded last Nov. 15.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Convict Santos before ousting him: Ethics Committee fails to recommend expulsion

Less than an hour after the House Ethics Committee published their extensive report on the elected fraudster from New York, Con(gress)man George Santos took to Twitter to claim that he will not be running for a second term next year. Don't believe him. Don't believe anything this schnook says, since everything is a lie.

Only when petitions for the June primary are filed in April and Santos doesn't submit will his absence from the ballot be real. Unless he pleads guilty by then, he'll still be a free man, as his federal criminal trial on Long Island starts in September. But there's a good chance he won't be a member of Congress and we'll have to stop calling him con(gress)man.

Not that Santos will resign (and give up the $174,000 government salary and medical coverage), but his disgusted colleagues perhaps will expel him, maybe as soon as they return from their Thanksgiving break. But they should not undo the 2022 election until Santos has been found guilty in a court of law or by the Ethics Committee.

Despite documenting many misdeeds with his campaign funds, the committee did not render a judgment or recommendation beyond to "publicly condemn" him. There is no standard Statement of Alleged Violation that they always use to recommend punishment by the full House, which can range from being reprimanded or reproved.

We know why they punted, as to not interfere with the ongoing criminal case. But the process matters greatly. Even press statements from Ethics Committee members calling for Santos' expulsion isn't the same thing as the bipartisan panel voting that way.

We have said from last December, when it was exposed by the press (belatedly) that Santos wasn't a Jew, or a former banker or ever enrolled in college and his exploits and biography were all lies, that he should resign, but lying isn't a crime.

Soon enough prosecutors started looking and they found many crimes to charge him with. And the ethics panel also dug and published their findings. But charges aren't guilt.

If the priority is getting Santos out of Congress, then the Ethics Committee should have formally urged his expulsion. That they didn't does make a difference. The members seeking his ouster (led by other New Yorkers) have already tried twice to get the two-thirds majority and they may succeed the next time. But they need to remember that they write the laws for the nation and doing it exactly right is very important.

Having Santos found guilty by the courts or the Ethics Committee should be the standard.

We don't want this guy disgracing the already disgraceful Congress any longer than he has, but there can't be any shortcuts. The House has only ever expelled five members: three traitors from the South who took up with the Confederacy against the Union when the Civil War started in 1861 and a pair of criminals following their convictions on felony

See CONVICT on Page 9

If I wanted to find agreement with the president, I should've met with Trump...
BIDEN
XI
DETENTION CAMP FOR POLITICAL ENEMIES
MARGULIES
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US should use its leverage with Israel to help minimize civilian harm in the war

By ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD
Chicago Tribune

Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was previously a U.S. diplomat and is the author of The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age.

We cannot ignore the mounting civilian death toll in Gaza. The victims are not abstractions, nor are they the inevitable collateral damage of a just war. They are the result of choices Israeli leadership has made on how to pursue this just war.

To be sure, Hamas holds primary responsibility for this war and its casualties, having committed the horrific atrocities on Oct. 7 that provoked Israel's response. Hamas also puts civilians in harm's way by placing operations and facilities amid critical civilian infrastructure—which is a war crime.

But as an American citizen and U.S. foreign policy professional, my question is: What can the United States do to mitigate civilian harm and help secure peace?

The U.S. government has and must continue to condemn the acts of Hamas. But America's leverage is over Israel, so that is where it can make a difference in this war.

The United States has no relationship with Hamas, having designated it a terrorist organization since 1997 and sanctioned anyone who associates or cooperates with it. In stark contrast, Israel has been a uniquely close U.S. partner for decades.

Israel has been in the top three recipients of American aid for half a century. The United States has been Israel's principal weapons supplier since Israel was founded in 1948, providing $124 billion in military aid since then.

In the 1970s, the United States adopted a policy committed to ensuring that Israel maintains a " qualitative military edge" over its neighbors. Since 2019, it has provided Israel nearly $4 billion in military aid annually. The Biden administration's proposed $14 billion emergency aid request suggests that Israel continues to rely heavily on U.S. support.

This is America's leverage, and the U.S. government has a responsibility to its own citizens to use it to ensure that Israel doesn't conduct this war in a way that undermines America's own interests—including peace and security in the region—such as facilitating unnecessary civilian harm.

The uncomfortable truth is that unconditional U.S. military assistance for decades has likely undermined rather than enhanced prospects for peace by insulating the Israeli government from the need to resolve the Palestinian question.

For most of the last 15 years, Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership has put Israel on a dangerous and provocative path. From undermining the Iran nuclear deal, to expanding settlements in the West Bank, to complicity with rampant settler violence and illegal seizure of Palestinian land that continues today, Netanyahu has only stoked conflict. He abandoned any pretense of pursuing a two-state solution and instead launched a containment strategy that kept Hamas strong enough to subvert the Palestinian Authority and to keep talks of a peace agreement at bay.

The U.S. government watched these developments with alarm but continued to rely on quiet diplomacy, which clearly failed, dismissing calls for harsher action such as making U.S. military support conditional on Netanyahu's government changing course. This has served neither Israelis nor Americans well.

The time has come for the United States to take a harder stand and use its military support to help put Israel on a better path to peace.

This means convincing the Israeli government to heed U.S. advice to mitigate civilian harm in its fight against Hamas. As Secretary of State Antony Blinken has made clear, the United States supports Israel's right to defend itself, but " how Israel does this matters." U.S. policy prohibits the transfer of weapons when they are likely to be used in ways that cause excessive civilian harm.

Some civilian harm is inevitable in an urban space as dense as Gaza, and Israel must take the fight to Hamas there. But U.S. civilian and military officials have made clear that they believe Israel can and must do more to minimize the damage.

The U.S. military has experience with urban warfare and has provided specific guidance to Israel on how to approach it. This includes using much smaller bombs, gathering more intelligence prior to strikes and employing ground forces to separate civilians from militant areas. It would also require far more humanitarian support and a pause in fighting to facilitate it.

Israel has so far rejected these calls, laying blame on Hamas for any civilian harm. This approach is dangerous, not only for moral reasons—Gazan civilians should not have to pay for Hamas' crimes—but also because more civilian harm will lead only to more extremism. The trauma Gaza's children live through today, for those who survive, will make ripe recruiting for future terrorist groups.

The U.S. government must condition transfer of additional military assistance on Israel demonstrating to U.S. authorities that it is taking every reasonable step to minimize civilian harm and lay a path forward for peace. This is in the interest of America, Israel and the broader region. In fact, a Chicago Council on Global Affairs survey conducted in September found that more than half of Americans supported placing restrictions on U.S. military aid to Israel so that Israel could not use that aid toward military operations against Palestinians. Netanyahu would be wise to heed such a warning, and he will if the United States really means it.

It is politically difficult for the United States to put any strings on aid to Israel, but if the U.S. government cannot bring itself to do so, then we hold some responsibility for these deaths too.

Call for an override of line-item veto

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the remarks Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) gave at the Ways and Means Committee meeting on Nov. 20, 2023.

By KARL R. KING-NABORS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Karl R. King-Nabors is a senator in the 23rd CNMI Legislature and chairman of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation.

Thank you, Chairman Yumul, and the members of this committee for the opportunity to address you today to highlight a critical and immediate concern I know we all share. That is the payment of utilities for the Executive Branch departments on Tinian and Rota.

As we all know, during the conference committee meetings, it was agreed by both the House and Senate conferees that the central government Department of Finance would be responsible for all government utility payments for fiscal year 2024. We all understood that even though we were facing unprecedented financial hardships and constraints, it would be impossible for the municipalities of Tinian and Rota to shoulder the payment of utilities for the eight Executive Branch departments without any appropriation of funds.

Over the past month, the mayor of Tinian has reached out to the secretary of Finance and the governor for assistance but both requests have gone unanswered. It was assumed that with the reprogramming authority granted in the fiscal year 2024 budget, the balance of American Rescue Plan Act funds held by the administration, and the $20 million Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursements the CNMI recently received, the governor would assist with the payment of utilities for the municipalities to ensure that essential public services are provided.

Unfortunately, today we face the consequences of our actions, or inactions, of not properly funding the Executive Departments on Tinian and Rota. I have been informed that the Tinian Aging Center's prepaid meter will expire within 16 days. Once the power is disconnected, we will be unable to provide service to our man'amko. Within 30 days, the Department of Labor on Tinian will also lose power and that department will likewise be unable to serve the people of Tinian. The Tinian departments of CCA and Labor are reaching out to their secretaries to request for assistance as they do not have a revolving fund or any other means to pay for their utilities.

Should the secretaries not be able to assist, then these will be the first two departments on Tinian that will shut down until power is restored.

I'm aware that some of you might ask why doesn't the mayor use his ARPA funds to pay for the utilities. The answer is clear. First, as the mayor presented during the budget hearings at both the House and Senate, there are not enough ARPA funds remaining to pay for utilities without having to terminate existing employees. Second, it needs to be understood, that the eight executive departments and the services they deliver are the responsibility of the governor and his department secretaries. This act to defund executive departments on Tinian and Rota causing them to shut down borders on dereliction of duty as it creates an inequitable delivery of public service within the CNMI. Although most of the committee members here do not represent Tinian and Rota, it is important to acknowledge as CNMI legislators that we have a duty to ensure that all residents of the CNMI deserve equal government services. And it is my hope that all the members of the House and Senate will rise to a call of action to right the injustice the fiscal year 2024 budget places on the residents of Tinian and Rota.

Therefore, I come before the Ways and Means Committee to ask for your support to override the governor's veto of Section 601(e) of the fiscal year 2024 Budget Appropriation to reinstate the original intent of the House and Senate for the central government Department of Finance to make all utility payments for all government departments for fiscal year 2024.

I thank you for the time given to me to speak before this committee and look forward to our mutual efforts to correct this situation and do the responsible and right action for the people we serve.

Giving Thanks for Democracy

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

Inspired by William Shakespeare's sonnet CXVI, it has a famous rhyming couplet at the end that inspired me to write three or four other parodies:

"If this be error and upon me prov'd
I never writ, nor no man ever lov'd."

Constitutional Sentiments and Impediments

Let us not divide the elemental tie that binds
or deny it and cut the fabric of democracy
which boggles and befuddles MAGA minds
as they wallow in delusion and conspiracy

Oh yes! Strength comes when we do our best
our United States Constitution will not be shaken
its worth is priceless, its truths are well taken
our Founding Fathers compromised without rest

Over time lies do not fool and truth will leak out
common sense grows by minutes days and weeks
through truth's hourglass grains of truth seeks
inside the hour of truth justice comes no doubt

If I am mistaken allow me to drink my own puke
Let conspiracy theorists try to make their rebuke.

CONVICT

From page 8

charges in federal court in 1980 and 2002.

Santos is a liar and a lousy bum and is likely to be nailed for his many offenses, but it hasn't happened yet. Even for such a terrible man, you still have to follow the rules to kick him out, just like you would for everyone else.

©2023 New York Daily News

Incentives for CNMI farmers

Editor's Note: The following is the text of a letter dated Nov. 17, 2023, that the author sent Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

By RAMON "RB" JOSE BLAS CAMACHO
Special to Saipan Tribune

Ramon "RB" Camacho is the mayor of the municipality of Saipan.

I am writing to address the pressing need for alternative economic solutions in our islands, particularly focusing on initiatives that harness the bountiful resources of our land and sea. Given the current challenges facing our primary tourism industry, it is imperative to explore and invest in alternative avenues that can bolster our economy sustainably.

As we navigate through the aftermath of the global pandemic, its becoming evident that the rebound of our tourism sector might take an additional two years. Additionally, the reliance on casino tourism has proven unsustainable and unreliable in recent times, prompting a shift toward more robust and locally driven economic strategies.

In this light, I strongly advocate for the promotion and development of agritourism as a viable option for economic revitalization. Our islands possess an incredible wealth of natural resources that can be harnessed through agricultural and aquacultural practices. Encouraging local farmers and fishermen to engage in agritourism initiatives can not only diversify our economy but also bolster our food security and resilience against external market fluctuations.

To facilitate the growth of agritourism, I propose the implementation of incentives for farmers as follows:

■ A nominal fee of $1 per acre per year for land use could encourage greater participation.

■ Stipulating adherence to sustainable practices such as crop rotation ensures the long-term viability of our agricultural endeavors.

■ Farmers shall provide their products to the public farmers market. This can serve as a central hub for local produce, creating a direct avenue for farmers to showcase their products. This not only promotes economic activity but also fosters a sense of community engagement and supports local entrepreneurship.

■ Allocated public lands granted to farmers should not be subleased at any time. This will safeguard the integrity of these initiatives.

The rising costs of food have significantly burdened our community, making access to affordable, locally sourced produce a pressing need. By nurturing agritourism and incentivizing our farmers to engage in sustainable practices, we can mitigate these challenges and create self-sustaining local food system.

I humbly request your support in championing these initiatives. Your advocacy and leadership in promoting agritourism will not only foster economic growth but also ensure food security and affordability for our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am hopeful that together, we can forge a path toward a more prosperous and sustainable future for our people. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 670-234-6208. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Honoring Alzheimer's Brain & Awareness Month: A global commitment

By JOSHUA MENESES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joshua Meneses is a projects specialist at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc.

Greetings from the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. We're dedicated to acknowledging Alzheimer's Brain & Awareness Month, an essential time to spread the word about the increasing challenges faced by many dealing with dementia globally.

This month acts like a spotlight, shining on the impact of Alzheimer's and why early diagnosis matters so much. Over the years, Alzheimer's Brain & Awareness Month has become a global effort, working hard to make people more aware, foster understanding, and bring folks together from all corners of the world.

This month is extra special because it lets everyone, including NMPASI, join together in support of those facing Alzheimer's and the families dealing with the tough parts of this disease. As we work together to raise awareness, November becomes a time to have important global conversations that promote understanding, compassion, and most importantly, action.

Through NMPASI's Protection and Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury, or PATBI, we ensure that we can help provide assistance that will address and eliminate barriers or conflicts reported by individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or other brain diseases. If you are experiencing any form of discrimination regarding your condition whether it be discrimination with employment, education, or availing of certain services, please contact our office so we can better serve you on that matter. Moreover, we offer a variety of programs and services that would address different kinds of challenges from our eligible applicants.

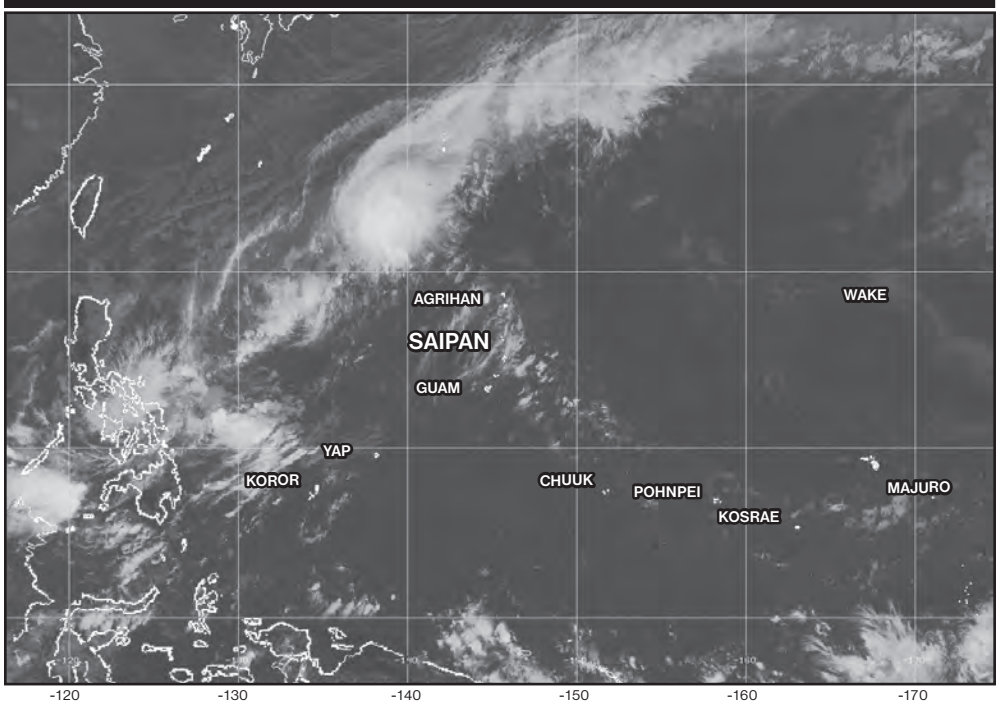
For further information, please reach out to NMPASI at (670) 235-7273/4 or visit our website at www.nmpasi.org. Let's all embrace the spirit of Alzheimer's Brain & Awareness Month, working together to brighten the path toward a future free from the grip of Alzheimer's.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
88 / 77°	88 / 77°	86 / 77°	86 / 77°	86 / 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:07 AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate southeasterlies prevail in the region. Satellite imagery and Doppler radar indicate patches of showers entering Tinian and Saipan waters under unfavorable shear conditions. The buoys indicate seas are about 5 to 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Wednesday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:15 AM	1:14 PM
Wednesday	-	1:13 AM	1:55 PM
Thursday	-	2:09 AM	2:35 PM
Friday	-	3:04 AM	3:15 PM
Saturday	-	4:00 AM	3:57 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	74° / 61°
Beijing	Fair	61° / 30°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72° / 62°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	80° / 74°
London	Cloudy	54° / 48°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	84° / 59°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 72°
New York	Mostly Sunny	49° / 39°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	59° / 45°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	50° / 41°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	63° / 39°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Salem	Sunny	66° / 42°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 50°
Seoul	Sunny	55° / 31°
Tokyo	Sunny	66° / 48°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	52° / 38°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:15 AM	High Tide	1.39
7:49 AM	Low Tide	-0.11
3:21 PM	High Tide	1.80
9:39 PM	Low Tide	0.91

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Why Americans feel gloomy about economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Inflation has reached its lowest point in 2 1/2 years. The unemployment rate has stayed below 4% for the longest stretch since the 1960s. And the U.S. economy has repeatedly defied predictions of a coming recession. Yet according to a raft of polls and surveys, most Americans hold a glum view of the economy.

» Despite falling inflation and low unemployment

The disparity has led to befuddlement, exasperation and curiosity on social media and in opinion columns.

Last week, the government reported that consumer prices didn't rise at all from September to October, the latest sign that inflation is steadily cooling from the heights of last year. A separate report showed that while Americans slowed their retail purchases in October from the previous month's brisk pace, they're still spending enough to drive economic growth.

Even so, according to a poll last month by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, about three-quarters of respondents described the economy as poor. Two-thirds said their expenses have risen. Only one-quarter said their income has.

The disconnect poses a political challenge for President Joe Biden as he gears up for his re-election campaign. Polls consistently show that most Americans disapprove of Biden's handling of the economy.

Many factors lie behind the disconnect, but economists increasingly point to one in particular: The lingering financial and psychological effects of the worst bout of inflation in four decades. Despite the steady cooling of inflation over the past year, many goods and services are still far pricier than they were just three years ago. Inflation—the rate at which costs are increasing—is slowing. But most prices are high and still rising.

Lisa Cook, a member of the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors, captured this dynamic in recent remarks at Duke University.

"Most Americans," Cook said, "are not just looking for disinflation"—a slowdown in price increases. "They're looking for deflation. They want these prices to be back where they were before the pandemic. ... I hear that from my family."

That's particularly true for some of the goods and services that Americans pay for most frequently: Bread, beef and other groceries, apartment rents and utilities. Every week or month, consumers are reminded of how far those prices have risen.

Deflation—a widespread drop in prices—typically makes people and companies reluctant to spend and therefore isn't desirable. Instead, economists say, the goal is for wages to rise faster than prices so that consumers still come out ahead.

How inflation-adjusted incomes have fared since the pandemic is a complicated question, because it's difficult for just one metric to capture the experiences of roughly 160 million Americans.

Adjusted for inflation, median weekly earnings—those in the middle of the income distribution—have risen at just a 0.2% annual rate from the final three months of 2019 through the second quarter of this year, according to calculations by Wendy Edelberg, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. That meager gain has left many Americans feeling that they have made little financial progress.

Sugar prices are rising worldwide after El Nino damaged crops in Asia

Skyrocketing sugar prices left Ishaq Abdulraheem with few choices. Increasing the cost of bread would mean declining sales, so the Nigerian baker decided to cut his production by half.

For scores of other bakers struggling to stay afloat while enduring higher costs for fuel and flour, the stratospheric sugar prices proved to be the last straw, and they closed for good.

Sugar is needed to make bread, which is a staple for Nigeria's 210 million people, and for many who are struggling to put food on the table, it offers a cheap source of calories. Surging sugar prices—an increase of 55% in two months—means fewer bakers and less bread.

"It is a very serious situation," Abdulraheem said.

Sugar worldwide is trading at the highest prices since 2011, mainly due to lower global supplies after unusually dry weather damaged harvests in India and Thailand, the world's second- and third-largest exporters.

This is just the latest hit for developing nations already coping with shortages in staples like rice and bans on food trade that have added to food inflation. All of it contributes to food insecurity because of the combined effects of the naturally occurring climate phenomenon El Nino, the war in Ukraine and weaker currencies. Wealthier Western nations can absorb the higher costs, but poorer nations are struggling.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization is predicting a 2% decline in global sugar production in the 2023-24 season, compared with the previous year, translating to a loss of about 3.5 million metric tons (3.8 million U.S. tons), said Fabio Palmeri, an FAO global commodities market researcher. Increasingly, sugar is being used for biofuels like ethanol, so global reserves of sugar are at their lowest since 2009.

Brazil is the biggest sugar exporter, but its harvest will only help plug gaps later in 2024. Until then, import-dependent countries—like most of those in sub-Saharan Africa—remain vulnerable.

Nigeria, for instance, buys 98% of its raw sugar from other countries. In 2021, it banned imports of refined sugar that ran counter to a plan to build up domestic sugar processing and announced a $73-million project to expand sugar infrastructure. But those are longer-term strategies. Abuja traders like Abba Usman are facing problems now.

The same 50-kilogram (110-pound) bag of sugar that Usman bought a week ago for $66 now costs $81. As prices rise, his customers are dwindling.

"The price keeps increasing every day, and we don't know why," Usman said.

It's partly due to the El Nino, a natural phenomenon that shifts global weather patterns and can cause extreme weather conditions ranging from drought to flooding. Scientists believe climate change is making El Nino stronger.

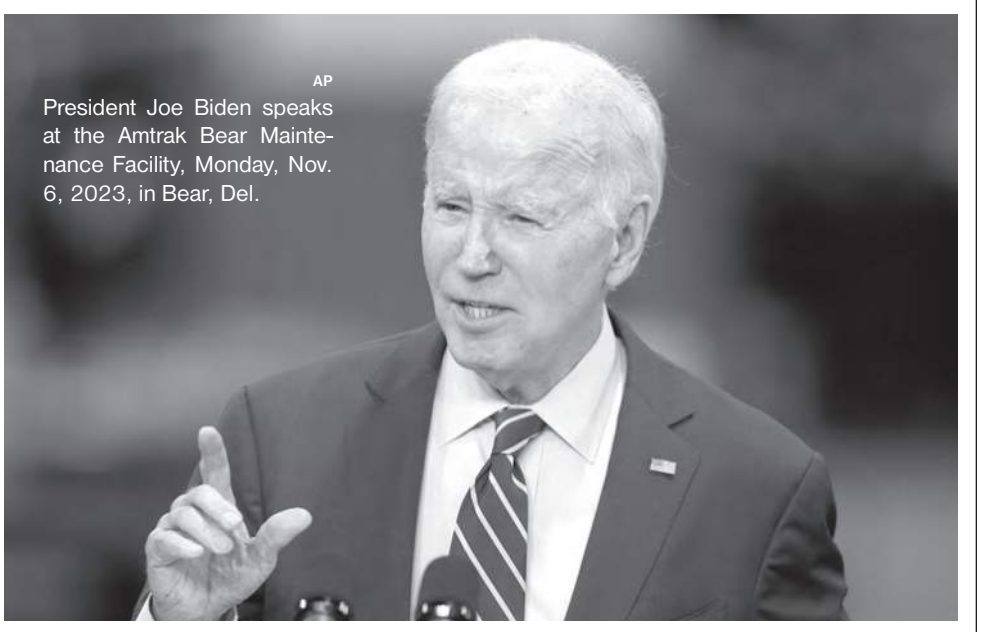
India endured its driest August in over a century, and crops in the western state of Maharashtra, which accounts for over a third of its sugarcane production, were stunted during the crucial growing phase.

India's sugar production is likely to decline by 8% this year, according to the Indian Sugar Mills Association. The world's most populated nation is also the biggest consumer of sugar and is now restricting sugar exports.

Nation

DESPITE BEING AN OPTIMIST

Biden's dire warnings about Trump central to campaign



AP

President Joe Biden speaks at the Amtrak Bear Maintenance Facility, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, in Bear, Del.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden ends nearly every speech by saying he's "never been more optimistic" about the country's direction. But lately he also has begun painting a vision of a catastrophic future for the United States—that is, if Donald Trump returns to the presidency.

Biden in recent days has accused the former Republican president of being "determined to destroy American democracy" and being out for "revenge" and "retribution."

Biden's reelection campaign is sending more emails with stark warnings: "Trump's America in 2025: A Unilateral National Abortion Ban" and "Trump's America in 2025: Mass Detention Camps." Trump has proposed the largest operation to arrest and deport migrants in U.S. history. He has not endorsed a a federal ban on abortion.

Contrasting Biden and Trump was always going to be central to the Democratic president's 2024 strategy. But there was a time when Trump only merited short and derisive mentions in Biden's speeches, if Trump was mentioned at all.

Today, Biden's campaign has sharply increased its references to Trump with just under a year until the election. The change reflects how, with Biden low in the polls, lukewarm Democratic voters might be more motivated by stopping Trump than hearing about investments in infrastructure and renewable energy.

Biden has acknowledged that many voters don't feel great about the economy. Voters are frustrated by high inflation and have concerns about his age. At nearly 81, Biden is already the oldest person elected president.

Speaking on Wednesday to campaign donors in San Francisco, Biden argued that Trump was using the rhetoric of Nazis to demonize perceived political enemies after Trump recently pledged to to "root out" enemies he described as "vermin." Moments later in his remarks, Biden returned to a usual refrain, saying, "I've never been more optimistic about our country's future."

There is a dissonance between Biden's stoking of hopes for an ascendant America and his dark warnings that the country could fall under the sway of someone he labels a would-be despot. The campaigns sees the two messages as complementary.

Rosalynn Carter, outspoken former first lady, dies at 96

ATLANTA (AP)—Former first lady Rosalynn Carter, the closest adviser to Jimmy Carter during his one term as U.S. president and their four decades thereafter as global humanitarians, has died at the age of 96.

The Carter Center said she died Sunday after living with dementia and suffering many months of declining health. The statement said she "died peacefully, with family by her side" at 2:10 p.m. at her rural Georgia home of Plains.

"Rosalynn was my equal partner in everything I ever accomplished," the former president said in the statement. "She gave me wise guidance and encouragement when I needed it. As long as Rosalynn was in the world, I always knew somebody loved and supported me."

President Joe Biden called the Carters "an incredible family because they brought so much grace to the office."

"He had this great integrity, still does. And she did too," Biden told reporters as he was boarding Air Force One on Sunday night after an event in Norfolk, Virginia. "God bless them." Biden said he spoke to the family and was told that Jimmy Carter was surrounded by his children and grandchildren.

Later, the White House released a joint statement from the president and first lady Jill Biden saying that Carter inspired the nation. "She was a champion for equal rights and opportunities for women and girls; an advocate for mental health and wellness for every person; and a supporter of the often unseen and uncompensated caregivers of our children, aging loved ones, and people with disabilities," the statement added.

Reaction from world leaders poured in throughout the day.

The Carters were married for more than 77 years, forging what they both described as a "full partnership." Unlike many previous first ladies, Rosalynn sat in on Cabinet meetings, spoke out on controversial issues and represented her husband on foreign trips. Aides to President Carter sometimes referred to her—privately—as "co-president."

Asia

MARCOS SAYS:

China showing interest in atolls closer to coast of PH

AP
Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. speaks at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023.

HONOLULU (AP)—President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Philippines said the situation in the South China Sea "has become more dire" as China expands its presence in an area where multiple nations have competing territorial claims.

China has showed interest in atolls and shoals that are "closer and closer" to the coast of the Philippines, with the nearest atoll about 60 nautical miles (111 kilometers) away, Marcos said.

"Unfortunately, I cannot report that the situation is improving," Marcos said Sunday. "The situation has become more dire than it was before."

Marcos spoke during a question and answer session after he delivered a talk at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu. The Philippines president stopped in Hawaii to meet with U.S. military leaders and the local Filipino community on his way home from a regional summit meeting in San Francisco.

The visit held both geopolitical and personal significance for the leader. Marcos's father, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was forced into exile in Hawaii in 1986 after he was ousted in an army-backed "people power" uprising in the Philippines.

His trip comes at a time when the U.S. and the Philippines have been deepening their longstanding alliance in a shift after Marcos' predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, nurtured cozy ties with China and Russia.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea as its own territory and refuses to acknowledge claims from the Philippines and four other other governments to some or all of the waterway. Beijing has dismissed the findings of a U.N.-backed arbitration tribunal that invalidated China's sweeping historical claims under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Marcos reiterated that his nation wouldn't yield.

"The Philippines will not give a single square inch of our territory to any foreign power," he said in his speech.

The U.S. says China has militarized several islands it built in the area, arming them with anti-ship and anti-aircraft missile systems, laser and jamming equipment, and fighter jets.

Marcos said features in the South China Sea are "slowly being turned into bases." He said Adm. John Aquilino, the top U.S. military commander in the Indo-Pacific region, showed him a model of one earlier in the day.

The level of commitment China made "to those military bases" was "remarkable," Marcos said.

41 workers in India stuck in tunnel for an 8th day

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Officials trying to reach 41 workers who have been trapped in a collapsed tunnel in northern India for eight days were contemplating alternative rescue plans Sunday after snags with a drilling machine caused them to halt digging.

A new drilling machine arrived at the accident site in Uttarakhand state on Saturday to replace one that was damaged while breaking through the rocks and debris. They had been using the drill to create a space to insert wide pipes through which the trapped workers could crawl to their freedom.

Authorities have so far drilled 24 meters (79 feet) through rubble and debris, but it would require up to 60 meters (197 feet) to allow the workers to escape, said Devendra Patwal, a disaster management official.

Officials on Sunday were considering new angles for extracting the workers. Deepa Gaur, a government spokesperson, said this included possibly using the new machine to drill from the top of the hill, under which the workers have been trapped inside the collapsed tunnel.

This method would be more time-consuming, taking an additional four or five days, she added.

Earlier, rescue efforts hit a snag when a loud cracking sound was heard within the tunnel, startling those overseeing the operation, who paused the drilling and found parts of the machine damaged, said Tarun Kumar Baidya, director at the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.

The construction workers have been trapped since Nov. 12, when a landslide caused a portion of the 4.5-kilometer (2.8-mile) tunnel they were building to collapse about 200 meters (650 feet) from the entrance. The hilly area is prone to landslides.

The site is in Uttarakhand, a mountainous state dotted with Hindu temples that attract many pilgrims and tourists. Highway and building construction has been constant to accommodate the influx. The tunnel is part of the busy Chardham all-weather road, a flagship federal project connecting various Hindu pilgrimage sites.

World

31 premature babies evacuated from largest hospital in Gaza

» But scores of trauma patients remain

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP)—Health officials said 31 premature babies in "extremely critical condition" were transferred safely Sunday from Gaza's main hospital and will go to Egypt, while over 250 patients with severely infected wounds and other urgent conditions remained stranded days after Israeli forces entered the compound to look for Hamas operations.

The plight of the babies, along with the Israeli claims against Shifa Hospital, have become potent symbols in the devastating war between Israel and Hamas. An Israeli offensive has taken a heavy toll on Palestinian civilians, while Israel has accused Hamas of using Shifa and other hospitals as headquarters for military operations.

The newborns from the hospital, where power was cut and supplies ran out while Israeli forces battled Palestinian militants outside, were receiving urgent care in the southern Gaza city of Rafah. They had dehydration, hypothermia and sepsis in some cases, said Mohamed Zaqout, director of Gaza hospitals. Four other babies died in the two days before the evacuation, he said.

A World Health Organization team that visited Shifa said most of the remaining patients had amputations, burns or other trauma. Plans were being made to evacuate them in the coming days.

Later Sunday, Israel's army said it had strong evidence supporting its claims that Hamas maintains a sprawling command post inside and under Shifa. Israel has portrayed the hospital as a key target in its war to end Hamas' rule in Gaza following the militant group's into southern Israel six weeks ago.

The army said it found a 55-meter (60-yard) tunnel about 10 meters (33 feet) under the hospital's 20-acre complex, which includes several buildings, garages and a plaza. It said the tunnel included a staircase and a firing hole that could be used by snipers, and ended at a blast-proof door that troops have not yet opened.

The Associated Press couldn't independently verify Israel's findings, which included security camera video showing what the military said were two foreign hostages, one Thai and one Nepalese, taken to the hospital following the Oct. 7 attack.

The army also said an independent medical report had determined that Israeli army Cpl. Noa Marciano, whose body was recovered in Gaza, had been killed by Hamas in the hospital. Marciano had been injured in an Israeli strike Nov. 9 that killed her captor, according to Israel's intelligence assessment. The injuries were not life-threatening but she was then killed by a Hamas militant in Shifa, the army said.

Hamas and hospital staff have denied the allegations of a command post under Shifa. Critics describe the hospital as a symbol of what they call Israel's reckless endangerment of civilians. Thousands have been killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza, which is severely short of food, water, medicine and fuel.

Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan dismissed the Israeli military's announcement and didn't deny that Gaza has hundreds of kilometers of tunnels. However, he said, "the Israelis said there was a command and control center, which means that the matter is greater than just a tunnel."

HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS

About 1,200 people have been killed on the Israeli side, mainly civilians during the Oct. 7 attack in which Hamas dragged some 240 captives back into Gaza and shattered Israel's sense of security. The military says 63 Israeli soldiers have been killed, including 12 over the past 24 hours.

Hamas has released four hostages, Israel has rescued one, and the bodies of two were found near Shifa.

Israel, the United States and Qatar, which mediates with Hamas, have been negotiating a hostage release for weeks. "We are hopeful that we can get a significant number of hostages freed in the coming days," Israel's ambassador to the U.S., Michael Herzog, told ABC's "This Week."

Qatar's prime minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, said the sticking points were "more practical, logistical."

Israel's three-member war cabinet is to meet with representatives of the hostages' families on Monday evening.

SHIP SEIZED

Yemen's Houthi rebels seized a Israeli-linked cargo ship in the southern Red Sea and took its 25 crew members hostage Sunday, an action that raised fear that regional tensions heightened by the war were spilling onto the seas. The Iran-backed rebel group said it would continue to target ships connected to Israel.

No Israelis were aboard the Bahamas-flagged Galaxy Leader, which was operated by a Japanese company with crewmembers from the Philippines, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine and Mexico, officials said. Public shipping databases associated the ship's owners with Ray Car Carriers, a company founded by Abraham "Rami" Ungar, who is known as one of the richest people in Israel.

Ungar told The Associated Press he was aware of the incident but couldn't comment as he awaited details. A ship linked to him experienced an explosion in 2021 in the Gulf of Oman. Israeli media blamed it on Iran at the time.

The Galaxy Leader was seized some 150 kilometers (90 miles) off the coast of Yemen, near the coast of Eritrea, and taken to the port city of Hodeida, according to the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, citing a security officer with the ship's company.

Japanese officials were negotiating with Houthi rebels for the release of the ship and its crew, said Japan Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE NORTH

Heavy clashes were reported in the built-up Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza. "There was the constant sound of gunfire and tank shelling," Yassin Sharif, who is sheltering in a U.N.-run hospital there, said by phone.

The commissioner-general of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, Philippe Lazzarini, said 24 people were killed the day before in what witnesses described as an Israeli airstrike on a U.N.-run school in Jabaliya. The Israeli military, which has repeatedly called on Palestinians to leave northern Gaza, said only that its troops were active in the area "with the aim of hitting terrorists."

Overdrive

By LARRY PRINTZ
Tribune News Service

DANIEL KRAUS/BMW/TNS

The 2024 BMW i5 eDrive40 is a truly contemporary luxury sports sedan experience.

Ditch your gas car; the 2024 BMW's i5 EV's refined athleticism tops it

For BMW, the lucky number always seems to be 5. It was the 507 that proved to be the most beautiful sports car the company has ever built. And while the 3 Series remained the foundation of the brand since its inception, it's the larger 5 Series, introduced in 1972, that brought it the lasting fame and admiration that BMW always enjoyed.

And so it's fitting that even though the company has already released the battery-electric i4 compact hatchback and the sizable yet exquisite i7 full-size sedan, it's the midsize i5 sedan that seems to be its Goldilocks EV. It's just right.

Like the i4 and i7, BMW's i5 looks mostly like its gas-powered counterpart, albeit with a couple of styling differences. Like other BMW EVS, it has a different grille from its petrol-powered siblings. Its LED lighting and shark-nose grille recall the past models, albeit updated for the 21st century. The i5 proves reassuringly contemporary, looking mostly like any other 5 Series. It just happens to be electric. In this regard, BMW is taking a different approach than Mercedes-Benz. BMW's prime competitor is separating its vehicles into a unique EQ line, with its sedans having all the visual presence of a four-wheel suppository. It's as if Mercedes-Benz is walking away from its heritage—something BMW embraces, thankfully.

DANIEL KRAUS/BMW/TNS

The 2024 BMW i5 eDrive40. All i5s come with a 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster and a 14.9-inch infotainment touchscreen under a single sheet of glass.

Nevertheless, for 2024, the battery electric BMW i5 comes in two forms.

The first is the rear-wheel-drive i5 eDrive40, base price $66,800, delivering 335 horsepower and 295 pound-feet of torque. Running 0-60 mph takes 5.7 seconds according to BMW. Top speed is 120 mph. Range is EPA rated at 295 miles—if you have 19-inch wheels. That declines to 270 miles with 21-inch wheels.

Then there's the all-wheel-drive i5 M60 xDrive, base price $84,100, which generates 593 horsepower and 586 pound-feet of torque. Reaching 60 mph takes conspicuously less time, a mere 3.7 seconds on its way to a top speed of 130 mph. EPA range is 256 miles with 19-inch wheels, 240 miles with 21s.

Given the difference in their power, it's hardly surprising that the two models possess different personalities. The BMW i5 eDrive40 is the consummate luxury sedan, one that takes advantage of the electric driveline's quiet nature to deliver a comfortably serene experience. The ride tends to be soft, but not at the expense of handling or driving fun. It's very controllable in the best BMW tradition. Rear air springs are standard; electronically controlled dampers are optional. Acceleration is fairly strong, and most drivers will enjoy the beautiful restrained balance that this model offers.

By contrast, the i5 M60 xDrive is a far more aggressive animal, albeit one draped in the automotive equivalent of a post-modern tuxedo. If you're the type of person for whom the party never stops, or you just love a great luxury sports sedan, this is your ride. While both models deliver the instant torque that makes EVs so endearing, the i5 M60 xDrive delivers more of it more immediately. The ride is definitely firmer, with all the athleticism you'd require without the discomfort. Handling is superbly sharp, thanks to rear-wheel steering, active anti-roll bars and unique suspension tuning.

And once it comes time to recharge, a Level 3 DC fast charger replenishes the 2024 BMW i5 from 10-to-80 percent in 30 minutes. For home charging, its Level 2 charger refills the batteries at a rate of 11 kW.

While driving, you'll find yourself perched in seats covered in leather or, for the first time, Veganza, a new faux-leather that might fool the unsuspecting. The front seats are heated, ventilated and feature a massage function on the M60 xDrive. Thankfully, they're optional on the eDrive40.

Regardless of model, all i5s come with a 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster and a 14.9-inch infotainment touchscreen under a single sheet of glass. A head-up display, which projects key information like speed onto the windshield, is optional. Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, navigation, a wireless smartphone charger, a Harman/Kardon audio system, and a Wi-Fi hotspot come standard.

It all makes the 2024 BMW i5 a truly contemporary luxury sports sedan experience, with a refined athleticism that's sublime. Sure, some rivals offer more range. But they won't offer the blend of ingredients that have always made a BMW a true driver's car. It's been true for decades. And that hasn't changed, even in this age of electrification.

NUTS & BOLTS

- **Base price**: $66,800 (eDrive40), $84,100 (M60 xDrive)
- **Motors**: Synchronous AC
- **Horsepower/Torque:** 335/295 pound-feet (eDrive40), 593/586 pound-feet (M60 xDrive)
- **Range**: 295 miles (eDrive40), 256 miles (M60 xDrive)
- **Charging time (10-80%)**: 30 minutes (DC fast charger)
- **Length/Width/Height**: 199.2/74.8/59.6 inches
- **Ground clearance**: 5.4 inches
- **Payload**: 1,157 pounds
- **Cargo capacity**: 17.3 cubic feet

Is this old oil still OK to use?

MOTORMOUTH
BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide *and* Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: If it is stored properly in unopened containers, does motor oil, either synthetic or conventional, deteriorate over a period of time?

J.B., Syracuse, New York

A: Not as much as it becomes obsolete. Compare the API classification against what your engine requires. That information is on the engine's oil fill cap.

Viscosity characteristics are the first and most important element of the classification and labeling of motor oils, but viscosity is not the only factor to consider when choosing a motor oil. The second thing to look for on the API donut is the service classification, which helps determine the right ratio of oil properties to its operating conditions.

The classification works this way; early in the automotive industry, the first API Service Classification of motor oil was SA. From there, as motor oil improved and met increasing specifications for newer cars, the classification moved to SB, SC, SD, and so on (skipping only SI and SK).

■■■

Q: Last year my tire sensor light came on, but the dealership checked the tires, and the inflation was fine. They replaced a tire sensor. This week the tire light again came on (does not tell me which tire) and the tire business checked, and tires were fine. Is this a defect in my 2014 Subaru? While in the waiting room at the dealership to have the tire sensor replaced, another person had the same problem.

G.S, Chicago

A: At this time of year low tire pressure warnings go viral. The sudden drop in outside temperature lowers the pressure. For every 10-degree drop, tire pressure goes down 1 psi. Often, by the time you reach a dealership or tire store, the tires have heated up, increasing the pressure. Adjust your tires to the manufacturer's specs when they are cold.

■■■

Q: I have a 2020 Honda CR-V that had an oil change at 23,200 miles in July. I have been using regular conventional oil. I'm so careful about these things, but somehow, I had them use synthetic oil at this oil change. This is my fault—they asked me, and I said synthetic oil. I should say here that this is the first time I used this auto repair and I really like this business. My old auto repair closed so I had to make a change. Have I done any damage here? My owner's manual says: "May also use synthetic oil..." Also, should I do anything right now if this is a bad thing? Should I do something different at my next oil change?

B.D., Bloomington, Minnesota

A: You did not do a bad thing, but a good thing. Synthetic motor oil provides better protection and lubrication, which reduces wear on the engine's components. Reduced friction improves fuel economy. Synthetic oil also works better than conventional oil during severe hot and cold conditions. The downside is the higher cost. In my opinion, it is worth it.

■■■

Q: I learned the hard way that another good item to have in an emergency kit at all times of the year is a pruning saw, just in case you encounter a downed tree with limbs blocking a lonely, country road. Could save a long detour.

D.H., Easton, Pennsylvania

A: Good idea. Our readers seem to burst with them. The list could probably go on ad infinitum. For instance, how about baby formula and diapers? Maybe a microwave oven would be over the top.

Life & Style

Miss Nicaragua Sheynnis Palacios wins Miss Universe crown

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—Miss Nicaragua Sheynnis Palacios won the Miss Universe competition late Saturday night in El Salvador, the first to wear the crown from her country.

Palacios is a 23-year-old communicologist, who said she wants to work to promote mental health after suffering debilitating bouts of anxiety herself.

Miss Thailand, Anntonia Porsild, was first runner-up and Miss Australia, Moraya Wilson, the second runner-up.

Eighty-four women competed for the crown in the 72nd edition of the competition.

Palacios appeared to secure the win when she confidently answered the question of which woman's shoes would she like to spend a year in by saying Mary Wollstonecraft, the 18th-century English writer and philosopher. Wollstonecraft was an advocate of women's rights and is considered one of the forerunners of feminism.

AP

Miss Nicaragua Sheynnis Palacios reacts after being crowned Miss Universe at the 72nd Miss Universe Beauty Pageant in San Salvador, El Salvador, Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023.

Palacios said she wants to work to close the salary gap between the genders so that women can work in any area.

Miss Universe was last held in El Salvador in 1975. This year's event was another opportunity for President Nayib Bukele to tout changes made under his administration, especially greatly improving the country's safety.

"El Salvador has changed for good and we have shown it again," Bukele said Saturday night. "Miss Universe has given us the opportunity to show the world what we are capable of. Thank you for choosing to be part of El Salvador's rebirth."

Bukele is running for reelection despite constitutional term limits and is widely popular for his crackdown on the country's gangs. But he has faced international criticism for eroding checks and balances on his power and not respecting human rights.

More than 72,000 people have been arrested without due process since a state of emergency was declared in March 2022 in response to a surge in gang violence. The special powers it granted Bukele remain in place.

'Hunger Games' prequel tops box office

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

"The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes" topped the North American box office in its first weekend in theaters with $44 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It was a busy weekend at the multiplex, leading into the often lucrative Thanksgiving corridor. And while there was plenty to choose from at the buffet, not everything could be a hit. Audiences had "The Marvels," which plummeted a record 78% in its second weekend, as well as the nationwide debuts of the family-friendly "Trolls World Tour," Taika Waititi's soccer comedy "Next Goal Wins" and the R-rated slasher "Thanksgiving" all in wide release.

"The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes" is an interesting case study for a franchise that's been dormant for 8 years and is testing the waters for a new era. Its $44 million from 3,776 locations, including 1,610 premium screens, marks a low for films carrying "The Hunger Games" in the title. The four Jennifer Lawrence films all broke $100 million in their first weekends (the high point was the first with $158 million in 2013, the low was the last one with $102.7 million in 2015).

But it's a more nuanced story for Lionsgate, which operates differently from legacy studios by licensing its titles to international distributors which helps cover a significant portion of the film's budget. The filmmakers kept this around $100 million, which was also offset by tax credits for filming in Germany.

With an added $54.5 million from 87 international markets, the film has already earned $98.5 million out of the gates. The studio considers it a strong start for the prequel, set 64 years before Katniss Everdeen entered the picture, with a new cast led by Tom Blyth and Rachel Zegler.

"Historically attempting to do prequels, especially with no returning cast, can be a very challenging proposition," said Adam Fogelson, the vice chair of the Lionsgate Motion Picture Group. "The fact that we're sitting here at basically $100 million on opening weekend around the world is, I think, a testament to the quality of the movie, the quality of the talent that worked on the movie and a campaign that was both successful and efficient."

For Fogelson and the filmmakers, "The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes" represents something completely new, darker and more dramatic that opens up new possibilities, provided author Suzanne Collins wants to tell more stories. To judge it against the Jennifer Lawrence movies at the height of Collins' books popularity, he said, would be "a complete disservice to this movie as a standalone."

Also, he noted, "From a pure crass business perspective, it's going to end up being an incredibly successful proposition for Lionsgate."

- "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes," $44 million.
- "Trolls Band Together," $30.6 million.
- "The Marvels," $10.2 million.
- "Thanksgiving," $10.2 million.
- "Five Nights at Freddy's," $3.5 million.
- "The Holdovers," $2.7 million.
- "Next Goal Wins," $2.5 million.
- "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour," $2.4 million.
- "Priscilla," $2.3 million.
- "Killers of the Flower Moon," $1.9 million.

Boss has taken advantage of employee's kind offer

DEAR ABBY: My boss, who recently separated from her husband and is getting divorced, has moved within walking distance of work. The problem is, she can't drive, and her daughter needs to be taken to and from school. I offered to help her out with her daughter, but now she's asking me to take her everywhere she needs to go.

I have been accommodating and have done this for a couple of months, but she has never offered me any money toward gas in my car even though she's always bragging about all the things she has ordered off the internet. I never offered to be her chauffeur.

I work third shift, which is hard enough, and have my own child to take care of during the day. How can I tell her it's got to stop without hurting her feelings? I am getting close to losing control and telling her off. Everyone I know is advising me to stop, and she's just using me.

USED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR USED: Explain to your boss (politely) that you were glad to help her out "temporarily" by making sure her child had transportation to and from school, but you have responsibilities outside of work that preclude your continuing to serve as her chauffeur.

Then tell her that if you are going to continue driving her CHILD, you will need to be reimbursed for the fuel you expend doing it -- something she seems to have forgotten. Speaking up is not rude or hurtful; it's called being assertive.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Should I be upset that my grandchildren have a step-grandfather who has no children of his own and is always giving money and other gifts to my grandchildren? I bought my 18-year-old grandson a used car with the understanding that he would repay me in installments when he started working. He did just that, and then he had a fender bender, so I helped him get it partially repaired. I made the same deal with him as before. I paid for the repairs; he again repaid me in installments.

Well, one of the doors has a large dent and won't open. Now he has sweet-talked his step-grandfather into shopping for another car! My grandson doesn't want to fix the door because it's easier to get his step-grandfather to buy him another car. Should I be upset about this? What should I tell his step-grandfather?

FRUSTRATED GRANDFATHER

DEAR GRANDFATHER: I can see why you would be concerned. You have been trying to not only help your grandson but also to teach him responsibility. His well-meaning step-grandfather is interfering with that. By all means, have a discussion with him because Step-Grandpa is being manipulated. If he really wants to help your grandson, he should consider treating him to driving lessons.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Isn't it considered bad manners to comment about the length of time someone spends in the restroom? Several times when I've been out with people at a restaurant or bar, someone has commented "That was quick!" when I returned to the table. I want to tell them the comment is inappropriate. Any suggestions for an appropriate response that isn't too snarky would be appreciated.

PRIVATE LADY IN GEORGIA

DEAR PRIVATE LADY: Try this: Smile at the person and say, "I didn't know you were clocking my action!" (It's better than saying, "That's because I didn't take the time to wash my hands. Would you like me to pass you the bread?")

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

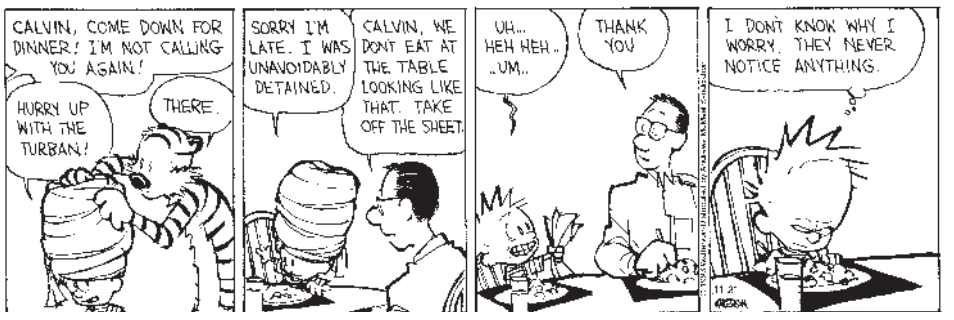
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

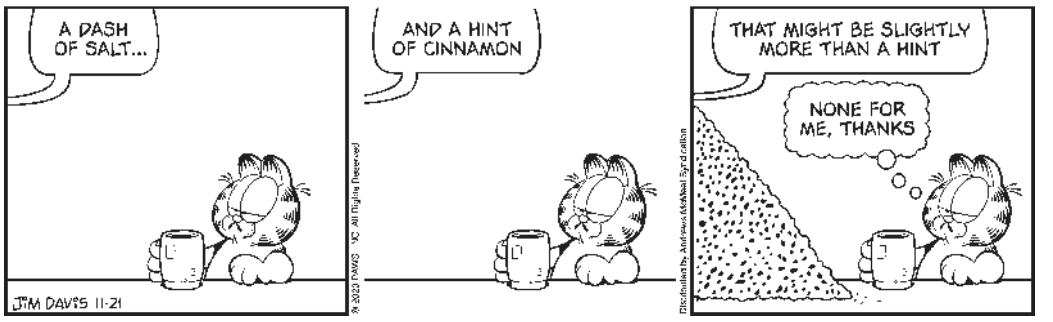
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN, COME DOWN FOR DINNER! I'M NOT CALLING YOU AGAIN!
HURRY UP WITH THE TURBAN!
THERE.
SORRY I'M LATE. I WAS UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED.
CALVIN, WE DON'T EAT AT THE TABLE LOOKING LIKE THAT. TAKE OFF THE SHEET.
UH... HEH HEH.. ..UM..
THANK YOU
I DON'T KNOW WHY I WORRY. THEY NEVER NOTICE ANYTHING.

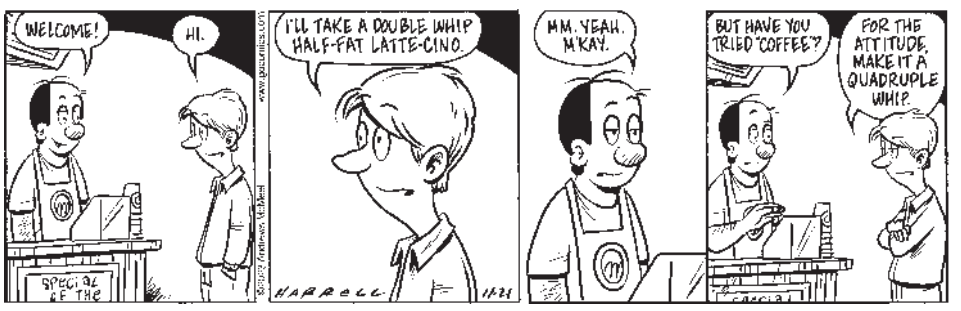
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



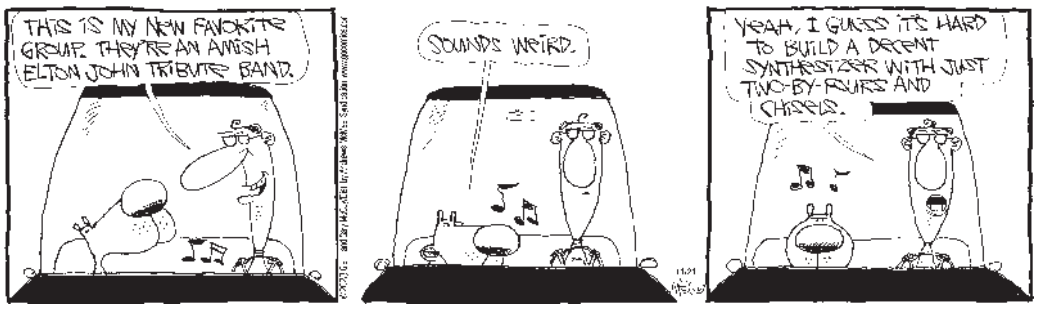
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WELCOME!
HI.
I'LL TAKE A DOUBLE WHIP HALF-FAT LATTE-CINO.
HMM. YEAH. M'KAY.
BUT HAVE YOU TRIED "COFFEE"?
FOR THE ATTITUDE, MAKE IT A QUADRUPLE WHIP.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THIS IS MY NEW FAVORITE GROUP. THEY'RE AN AMISH ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE BAND.
SOUNDS WEIRD.
YEAH, I GUESS IT'S HARD TO BUILD A DECENT SYNTHESIZER WITH JUST TWO-BY-FOURS AND CHISELS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Melville's "Billy —"
5 Use henna
8 First-place medal
12 Slender weapon
13 TV's Romano
14 Mine, in Marseille
15 Disembark
17 Give temporarily
18 NBC weekend show
19 Many millennia
20 Argentinian dance
21 Mountain pass
22 Meadow
23 Pottery fragment
26 Bum wraps?
30 First-rate
31 MSN rival
32 Sch. supporters
33 Large butterfly
35 Oodles
36 Hanoi holiday
37 "The Simpsons" barkeep
38 The staff of life
41 Soap unit
42 Recede
45 Harvest
46 Donate
48 Concerning
49 Citric beverage
50 Nevada city
51 Dick Tracy's love
52 "Air" director Affleck
53 Grouch

DOWN

1 Pleads
2 "Once — a time ..."
3 Transaction
4 — Moines
5 Wilt
6 Fish story
7 Needle hole
8 Fruit market selection
9 Portent
10 Protracted
11 Queen of Carthage
16 Cabbage unit
20 Bubble —
21 Large primates
22 Dogpatch adjective
23 Muppet eagle
24 "Yoo-—!"
25 Raggedy doll
26 "What was I thinking?"
27 Arles summer
28 Unprocessed
29 Snake's warning
31 Revue segment
34 Roulette bet
35 Harboring a grudge
37 Expert
38 Telly watcher
39 Painter Magritte
40 Jug handles
41 Wait
42 Pitcher
43 Eric of "Troy"
44 Informal party request (Abbr.)
46 Talk on and on
47 Curved line

Solution time: 22 mins.

O	L	D			B	A	M		B	R	I	E
L	O	E	B		A	S	U		U	N	T	O
E	C	R	U		H	I	S		T	A	T	S
S	A	N	T	A		F	I	A	T			
			T	R	Y		C	R	E	C	I	E
K	N	E	E	C	A	P		T	R	I	A	L
H	O	A	R		M	A	D		C	A	T	S
A	N	T	S	Y		C	A	B	O	O	S	E
N	A	S	C	A	R		M	O	C			
			O	P	U	S		A	K	I	T	A
J	I	L	T		G	A	P		I	M	A	N
A	I	F	C		R	R	A		F	A	R	N
M	E	S	H		Y	I	N			M	A	A

Yesterday's answer 11-21

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13				14			
15				16				■	17			
18			■	19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30				■	31			■	32			
33				34			■	35				
■	■	■	36			■	37			■	■	■
38	39	40			■	41			■	42	43	44
45				■	46				47			
48				■	49			■	50			
51				■	52				53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carly Rae Jepsen, 38; Jena Malone, 39; Michael Strahan, 52; Goldie Hawn, 78.

Happy Birthday: It's time to get moving. Put together your to-do list and start heading in a direction that makes you feel good about yourself, what you do and the goals you set. Change begins with you and how you live. Set up guidelines based on what makes you happy. Don't wait for opportunities if creating them will speed things up and be self-gratifying. Your numbers are 8, 14, 24, 28, 32, 37, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take the initiative to pick up information to help you get ahead. Visit someone who can offer inside information about a person, company or pursuit you want to infiltrate. A short trip, meeting or reconnecting with someone will pay off. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Doors will open if you promote yourself. Be bold and negotiate, and you'll impress the right people. Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. Make changes in your life that will alleviate what's holding you back and elevate what will advance your efforts. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Be careful who you believe and trust. Someone will use emotional tactics and twist your words around. Ask questions, get the truth and distance yourself from people trying to exploit you. Educate yourself, substantiate right from wrong and follow what accommodates you. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Pay attention to detail, and you'll gain recognition for your astute and unique approach to what you do and how you handle matters. Embrace change or an offer you receive; it will enhance your security and put your mind at ease. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't stress over the little things or let someone's decisions ruin your mood. Stay in tune with what's important to you and use your skills and experience to perpetuate what you want to pursue. Don't squander money or buy into someone else's dream. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* The more you achieve, the better you'll feel about yourself. Don't wait for someone to make the first move. If you want to stay ahead of the competition, take the initiative to get things done. Be careful not to give someone the wrong impression. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep your emotions in check. Don't give anyone a chance to take advantage of your vulnerabilities. Keep your home life private and your money matters to yourself. Invest time and money in yourself and the required knowledge and skills you need to reach your goal. 3 stars

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't take anything for granted. Do your due diligence to ensure you get what you want. A passionate approach to life, love and happiness will give you the spark to convince others to help you on your journey. Follow your dreams. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be careful who you trust. Don't share personal information or let anyone scam you into something you don't need or want. Focus on self-improvement, health and securing your position. Concentrate on what you do well and how to use your skills effectively. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Seize the moment and let your mind wander and your heart race. Do whatever motivates your enthusiasm for life, love and happiness. Don't wallow in someone else's misfortune or disdain when your state of mind and accomplishments are up to you. Choose your moves wisely. 4 stars

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Capture what matters to you and what you want to achieve. Use your connections and communication skills to help you pursue your dreams. Don't give in or get trapped by emotional blackmail. Make decisions based on what's best for you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Learn and adjust to ensure that you get things right. Find what motivates you most, and don't lose sight of your goal. An energetic approach to your pursuits will help build momentum and interest. Change begins with you; become the master of your destiny. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, aggressive and persuasive. You are energetic and helpful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8				6			
	3		7		8	4		
	6				5			7
4	5	9		8		3		6
		3		6			5	8
8	1	6	5	3			9	
	2	1		5				9
		7		1	4			2
5		8			2			1

Difficulty: ★★ 11/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	7	5	2	4	1	8	6	9
1	2	9	8	6	3	7	4	5
4	6	8	5	7	9	3	2	1
5	9	2	7	3	4	1	8	6
8	1	7	6	9	5	2	3	4
6	3	4	1	8	2	5	9	7
7	8	3	4	5	6	9	1	2
9	4	1	3	2	7	6	5	8
2	5	6	9	1	8	4	7	3

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Difficulty: ★ 11/20

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

COURTROOM ATTIRE Solution: 5 letters

A	S	L	E	E	V	E	S	S	E	N	I	S	U	B
D	T	N	E	M	N	R	E	V	O	G	Y	S	U	A
V	R	N	R	E	T	T	A	P	O	M	H	C	N	R
O	A	O	E	O	S	G	I	W	B	E	K	I	I	R
C	D	C	Y	M	B	C	N	O	R	L	W	T	F	I
A	I	I	T	A	R	E	L	I	E	Z	O	I	O	S
T	T	M	N	S	L	A	F	S	I	R	B	L	R	T
E	I	E	U	T	L	F	G	P	O	U	A	O	M	E
E	O	D	O	E	O	N	P	L	T	W	D	P	A	R
M	N	A	C	R	I	E	I	T	S	O	G	E	N	R
E	A	C	M	K	R	A	O	A	K	T	E	G	T	A
R	L	A	C	E	T	N	O	B	B	I	R	D	L	L
P	L	O	D	R	E	S	S	F	F	U	C	U	E	L
U	T	R	J	A	B	O	T	E	K	C	A	J	O	O
S	O	L	I	C	I	T	O	R	E	B	M	A	H	C

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Sutton catches go-ahead TD for Broncos, who end Vikings' win streak

AP

Denver Broncos wide receiver Courtland Sutton celebrates his touchdown with fans during the second half on an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, in Denver.

DENVER (AP)—Courtland Sutton's leaping 15-yard touchdown catch with 1:03 remaining powered the Denver Broncos to a 21-20 victory over the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday night, ending the NFL's longest winning streak at five games.

The Broncos (5-5) now own the league's longest winning streak at four.

Sutton outleapt cornerback Mekhi Blackmon, who had his eyes on an interception of Russell Wilson's high throw. A failed 2-point try kept the Vikings within a point and needing a field goal to win it.

The Broncos' defense—which produced three more takeaways, giving Denver a dozen over its last three games—didn't allow the Vikings to get out of their own side of the field.

Denver forced Joshua Dobbs into an intentional grounding that brought up fourth-and-25 before Dobbs threw one final incompletion with from the Vikings 21 with 16 seconds left.

Dobbs threw for 221 yards and a touchdown and ran for another but lost with the Vikings for the first time since they acquired him in an emergency trade with Arizona.

Wilson went 27 of 35 for 259 yards without an interception for Denver.

The Broncos started their go-ahead drive from their 25 with 3:17 remaining after Greg Joseph's field goal made it 20-15. That kick capped a 7-minute, 20-second drive by the Vikings that featured a fake punt from their own 30.

LIONS 31, BEARS 26

DETROIT (AP)—David Montgomery ran for a 1-yard touchdown with 29 seconds left against his former team, and Detroit rallied past Justin Fields and Chicago.

The NFC North-leading Lions (8-2) overcame four turnovers, including Jared Goff's season-high three interceptions, and a 12-point deficit over the last 3:06.

Detroit has its best record through 10 games since 1962, giving the franchise a shot to win a division title for the first time in three decades.

The Bears (3-8) blew chances to win consecutive games for the first time in nearly two years.

RAMS 17, SEAHAWKS 16

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Lucas Havrisik made a 22-yard field goal with 1:31 to play for Los Angeles, which held on to beat Seattle when Jason Myers missed a 55-yard attempt with 3 seconds left.

Matthew Stafford passed for 190 yards in his return from injury and led two scoring drives in the fourth-quarter comeback by the Rams (4-6), who snapped their three-game losing streak with their second win over the Seahawks (6-4) this season.

Los Angeles hung on only after Geno Smith returned from a late injury of his own and led a frantic last-minute drive into field goal range. But Seattle ran out of time and had to settle for a long attempt that was missed badly by Myers, who had already hit three field goals at SoFi Stadium.

Seattle appeared to be cruising toward its fourth victory in five games until Smith, who passed for 233 yards, was sidelined by a hard hit from Aaron Donald late in the third quarter.

BILLS 32, JETS 6

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Josh Allen threw three touchdown passes and Buffalo scored on six of its first eight possessions to rout New York.

With new offensive coordinator Joe Brady replacing the fired Ken Dorsey, the Bills (6-5) snapped a two-game skid and topped 25 points for the first time in seven weeks. That ended the team's worst such drought since a six-game run during Allen's rookie season in 2018.

After building a 9-0 lead on three field goals by Tyler Bass, Allen and the Bills broke the game open with three touchdowns over four possessions spanning halftime.

BROWNS 13, STEELERS 10

CLEVELAND (AP)—Dustin Hopkins kicked a 34-yard field goal with 2 seconds left after rookie quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson completed four straight clutch passes, and Cleveland beat Pittsburgh.

Making his second NFL start, Thompson-Robinson rallied the Browns (7-3) days after Deshaun Watson was lost for the season with a shoulder injury.

With the crowd chanting "D-T-R!" and Watson watching from Cleveland's sideline, Thompson-Robinson, a fifth-round pick from UCLA, calmly completed his four passes for 39 yards to set up Hopkins.

The Browns have beaten the Ravens and Steelers (6-4) in consecutive weeks for the first time in 15 tries.

Pittsburgh was outgained for the 10th straight week and couldn't get much going against Cleveland's top-ranked defense. Jaylen Warren had a 74-yard TD run and finished with a career-high 129 yards for the Steelers.

COWBOYS 33, PANTHERS 10

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—DaRon Bland tied an NFL record with his fourth pick-6 of the season, Dak Prescott threw for 189 yards and two touchdowns, and Dallas trounced Carolina for its fourth win in five games.

Bland made a diving interception of Bryce Young near the sideline early in the fourth quarter, got up and raced 31 yards for a touchdown and a 30-10 lead. He tied a record shared by Philadelphia's Eric Allen (1993), Kansas City's Jim Kearney (1972) and Houston's Ken Houston (1971).

Tony Pollard ran for 61 yards and a touchdown, and CeeDee Lamb found the end zone again for Dallas (7-3) in front of a predominantly pro-Cowboys crowd.

49ERS 27, BUCCANEERS 14

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Brock Purdy threw a 76-yard strike to Brandon Aiyuk for one of his three touchdown passes, and San Francisco beat Tampa Bay.

Purdy also threw a 4-yard TD pass to Christian McCaffrey and a 3-yarder to George Kittle to help the 49ers (7-3) post a second straight lopsided win following a three-game losing streak.

Baker Mayfield threw a TD pass for Tampa Bay (4-6), but the Bucs had no answers defensively against Purdy and the 49ers and lost for the fifth time in six games.

Purdy finished 21 for 25 for 333 yards and became the first Niners quarterback ever to post a perfect passer rating in a game with at least 20 attempts.

DOLPHINS 20, RAIDERS 13

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Jalen Ramsey had two of Miami's three interceptions, including a pick in the end zone that put the game away with 22 seconds left, and the Dolphins overcame three turnovers of their own to beat Las Vegas.

With the Raiders driving toward a potential tying score, Ramsey intercepted a pass from rookie Aidan O'Connell intended for Tre Tucker, ending a rare game in which Miami's defense outshined its offense.

Tua Tagovailoa went 28 of 39 for 325 yards with two touchdowns and an interception for Miami. He also lost his third fumble of the season on a scramble on the Dolphins' opening drive. Tyreek Hill caught his league-leading eighth touchdown of the season and had 146 yards on 10 receptions.

TEXANS 21, CARDINALS 16

HOUSTON (AP)—Standout rookie C.J. Stroud threw for 336 yards with two touchdowns, and Houston Texans overcame his season-high three interceptions to beat Arizona.

The Texans (6-4) have doubled their win total from last season and have won three games in a row for the first time since a nine-game streak in 2018.

The Cardinals (2-9) had a chance to win late. Kyler Murray threw a deep pass on fourth-and-8 that was intended for Marquise Brown, but Steven Nelson batted it down with 35 seconds left.

Houston didn't score after halftime and Stroud was picked off on consecutive drives in the fourth quarter. He had thrown just two interceptions in his first nine games.

PACKERS 23, CHARGERS 20

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Jordan Love threw for 322 yards and found Romeo Doubs for a 24-yard touchdown with 2:33 left to give Green Bay the win over Los Angeles.

Love went 27 of 40 and became the first Packer to throw for more than 300 yards since Aaron Rodgers had a 341-yard day against the Chicago Bears on Dec. 12, 2021. Love's other touchdown pass was an 11-yarder to Christian Watson with 4 seconds left in the third quarter.

Los Angeles (4-6) lost another close one. Five of the Chargers' six defeats have been decided by a combined 14 points.

The Chargers also suffered a major blow when star edge rusher Joey Bosa was carted off the field with a foot injury on the game's opening series. Packers running back Aaron Jones was carted off with a shoulder injury late in the second quarter.

Justin Herbert threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Keenan Allen on third-and-9 to give the Chargers a 20-16 lead with 5:24 remaining. The Packers (4-6) answered on their next series.

Herbert was 21 of 36 for 260 yards with two touchdowns.

GIANTS 31, COMMANDERS 19

LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—Sam Howell threw three interceptions among six turnovers for Washington, which may have reached the low point of coach Ron Rivera's tenure with the loss to last-place New York.

Undrafted quarterback Tommy DeVito picked up his first NFL win in his second start as the Giants (3-8) beat the Commanders (4-7) for the second time this season. Washington has lost seven of nine.

After a late comeback bid was ended by Isaiah Simmons picking off Howell and returning it 54 yards for a touchdown with 16 seconds left, Rivera's future, and that of the entire coaching staff and front office, is now squarely in the forefront in the first season since Josh Harris' ownership group bought the team.

Favored by more than a touchdown, the Commanders fumbled in nearly every possible way: Logan Thomas after a catch, Byron Pringle on a kickoff return and Chris Rodriguez Jr. on a run. The giveaways by Howell prevented Washington from getting back into the game.

New York scored a first-quarter TD for the first time all season. The Giants never trailed and won for the first time since Oct. 22, when they beat the Commanders 14-7 at the Meadowlands.

DeVito completed 18 of 26 passes for 246 yards and three TD passes: two to Saquon Barkley and one to Darius Slayton. The Giants dominated despite allowing DeVito to be sacked nine times and rushing for zero yards as a team in the first half.

JAGUARS 34, TITANS 14

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Trevor Lawrence threw two touchdown passes to Calvin Ridley, and Jacksonville rebounded from its worst loss of the season by drubbing Tennessee.

Ridley finished with seven catches for 103 yards, finding the end zone twice for the first time with the Jaguars (7-3). Lawrence also ran for two scores for the first time in his three NFL seasons, becoming the first player in franchise history with two TD passes and two rushing scores in the same game.

It was a much-needed performance for a team that had lost three of four at home and was embarrassed by San Francisco a week earlier.

Jacksonville scored on five consecutive possessions and finished with 389 yards. Lawrence completed 24 of 32 passes for 262 yards, finishing with the fourth-best passer rating (119.5) of his career after the third-lowest outing against the 49ers.

The Titans (3-7), coming off a 14-point loss at Tampa Bay, fell to 0-6 away from home. Coach Mike Vrabel's team has yet to top 16 points on the road.

Durant scores 39 as Suns win double OT game against Jazz

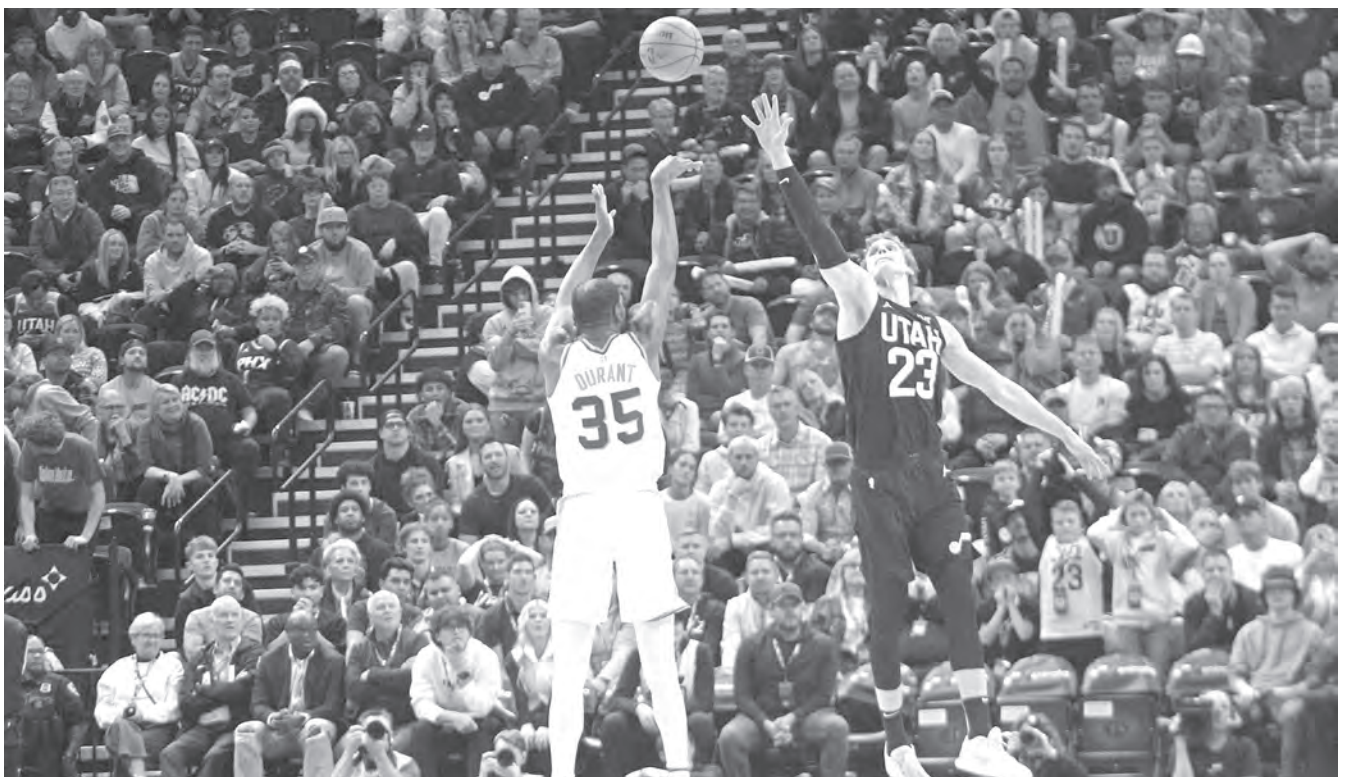
SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Kevin Durant totaled 39 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds to lead the Phoenix Suns to a 140-137 double overtime win over the Utah Jazz on Sunday night.

Devin Booker scored 22 of his 26 points after halftime and tallied eight assists for the Suns. Eric Gordon added 20 points and six assists. Jusuf Nurkic chipped in 18 points and 12 rebounds. Grayson Allen finished with 14 points, including the game-winning basket.

Phoenix won its third straight game overall and beat the Jazz for the second time in three days.

Lauri Markkanen finished with 38 points and 17 rebounds to lead Utah. Talen Horton-Tucker chipped in 25 points, Jordan Clarkson added 22, Collin Sexton had 18 and John Collins had 15.

Utah lost despite finishing with a 27-18 advantage in second-chance points and 26-12 edge in fastbreak points.



AP

Phoenix Suns forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots a 3-point basket as Utah Jazz forward Lauri Markkanen (23) defends during the second overtime of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, in Salt Lake City.

76ERS 121, NETS 99

NEW YORK (AP)—Joel Embiid had 32 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists as Philadelphia beat Brooklyn.

Tyrese Maxey finished with 25 points and 10 assists, and De'Anthony Melton scored 21 points on 8-for-10 shooting for his fifth straight double-figure scoring game.

The 76ers shot 45.7% from 3-point range in their ninth straight victory over Brooklyn, including a four-game sweep in last season's Eastern Conference quarterfinals.

Lonnie Walker IV came off the bench to lead Brooklyn with 26 points and six rebounds. Mikal Bridges scored 18 points and Nic Claxton added 10 points and nine rebounds.

CAVALIERS 121, NUGGETS 109

CLEVELAND (AP)—Darius Garland scored 26 points and rookie Craig Porter Jr. added a career-high 21, powering Cleveland to their third straight victory, a 121-109 victory over defending NBA champion Denver.

Evan Mobley had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Jarrett Allen added 15 points for Cleveland, which built a season-high 26-point lead in the fourth quarter.

Nuggets center Nikola Jokic battled foul trouble and finished with 18 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists in 28 minutes. Michael Porter Jr. scored 21 points and Christian Braun had 13 points off the bench for Denver.

Cleveland, which did not trail in the final three quarters, outrebounded the Nuggets 47-33.

CELTICS 102, GRIZZLIES 100

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Kristaps Porzingis scored 26 points, including the winning dunk with 1:01 left, as Boston held on for the victory over Memphis.

Porzingis' dunk was followed by a flurry of missed shots including a missed 3-pointer by Santi Aldama with 4 seconds left as Boston held on to win its sixth straight.

Jayson Tatum finished with 20 points and Sam Hauser added 15 for Boston.

Desmond Bane led Memphis with 30 points, while Aldama added a career-high 28 and Jaren Jackson Jr. finished with 17 points.

LAKERS 105, ROCKETS 104

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeBron James scored a season-high 37 points, including the go-ahead free throw with 1.9 seconds remaining, and Los Angeles held off Houston.

It was James' fifth 30-point game this season and his fourth in his last seven as the Lakers have won five of their last six.

Earlier in the game, James became the fourth player in NBA history with at least 10,500 assists. He also tied Vince Carter for seventh on the 3-pointers list with 2,290, and moved past Clyde Drexler for eighth on the steals list at 2,208.

Brooks led the Rockets with 24 points, including a season-high six 3-pointers.

KINGS 129, MAVERICKS 113

DALLAS (AP)—Domantas Sabonis had 32 points and 13 rebounds, De'Aaron Fox scored 30 and Sacramento won its sixth consecutive game with a victory over Dallas.

Keegan Murray added 17 points as all five starters scored in double figures for the Kings, who improved to 3-0 on a six-game road trip.

Sabonis recorded a season high in points, and the three-time All-Star has 10 double-doubles in 12 games this season.

Luka Doncic scored 25 for the Mavericks, who faded in the fourth quarter on the second night of a back-to-back and have lost three of four since an 8-2 start.

THUNDER 134, TRAIL BLAZERS 91

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 28 points before heading to the bench in the third quarter and Oklahoma City won its fifth straight game with a rout of Portland.

Rookie Chet Holmgren added 16 points and six rebounds for the Thunder, who led by as many as 47 points. Isaiah Joe had 15 points, all on 3-pointers.

Thunder coach Mark Daigneault started sending his starters to the bench with about five minutes left in the third quarter and they did not return.

Jerami Grant had 14 points to lead the short-handed Blazers, who have lost seven straight games.

RAPTORS 142, PISTONS 113

TORONTO (AP)—Pascal Siakam scored 23 points, Scottie Barnes and Dennis Schroder each had 17 and Toronto never trailed in handing Detroit its 11th consecutive loss.

Barnes led Toronto with nine assists as the Raptors recorded a franchise-record 44. Toronto finished with more assists than Detroit had made baskets (39).

Toronto's previous record for assists in a game was 40, set Nov. 18, 2019 against Charlotte.

Stanley Umude scored 19 points and Cade Cunningham had 18 for the Pistons.

MAGIC 128, PACERS 116

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Paolo Banchero scored 24 points, Franz Wagner added 19, and visiting Orlando jumped to a big lead early and routed Indiana.

Six Magic players scored at least 13. Suggs, who sat out Friday's win at Chicago with a knee injury, scored nine of his 18 in the opening quarter. Moritz Wagner scored 16 and Cole Anthony 15.

Reserve Jordan Nwora led the Pacers with 19. Pacers All-Star point guard Tyrese Haliburton missed all seven field-goal attempts in a two-point first half and finished with 12 points.

Orlando had a 42-21 lead after the first quarter and were ahead by as much as 38 in the second quarter.

Murray edging closer to return from hamstring injury, will join Nuggets on 5-game trip

DENVER (AP)—Jamal Murray is edging closer to a return from a hamstring injury and will join the Denver Nuggets on their upcoming five-game trip.

Nuggets coach Michael Malone said Thursday after practice that he wasn't sure if his dynamic point guard would play during the long road excursion that kicks off Friday at New Orleans as part of the In-Season Tournament.

"But I know from all the reports I'm getting, he's really working hard to get back and making positive strides every day," said Malone, whose team is 2-0 in the inaugural in-season tournament so far.

Murray and two-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic helped guide the Nuggets to the franchise's first championship last season. Murray averaged 26.1 points during a postseason run in which the Nuggets went 16-4.

The 26-year-old Murray was off to a sizzling start this season, averaging 16.3 points and 7.4 assists, when he tweaked his hamstring on Nov. 4 against Chicago. The team has been taking a cautious approach with his recovery. Murray missed the entire 2021-22 season as he recovered from a torn ACL.

Denver has gone 3-1 so far in Murray's absence, with veteran Reggie Jackson taking his place in the starting lineup. Jackson has averaged 14.8 points over the span to help the Nuggets stay atop the Western Conference standings (9-2).

"When guys go down to injury, especially when a guy is out for an extended period of time, you need guys to step up," Malone said. "Reggie is a veteran. He's played a lot of big games in his career. And the job he's done stepping in with that starting unit, and also anchoring that second unit—he's just been terrific across the board."

Rookie Jalen Pickett saw his role expand in a win over the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday night, when he had five points in nearly 17 minutes of action. He said the pointers from Murray have been instrumental in lessening his learning curve.

"He's been telling me stuff since this summer," explained Pickett, the 32nd overall pick in the 2023 draft out of Penn State. "Seeing (Murray) just come into that leadership role, even though he's hurts, and to still be on the bench and helping me is great."

Collin Gillespie has also seen more playing time in Murray's absence after sitting out last season while he recovered from a broken leg. Gillespie played a season-high 20 minutes in a loss at Houston last Sunday (he didn't play against the Clippers).

Michael Porter Jr. believes getting the younger players time on the court now—including Julian Strawther—will only pay off later.

"It's a long season and there's going to be guys that miss games," Porter said. "And when guys have reps, different roles, it's always good. So I think it's been good for a lot of different guys, not just Reggie, but Collin, getting some minutes, Jalen getting some minutes. A lot of different guys have stepped up."

Grizzlies' Smart to miss 3 to 5 weeks with sprained left foot

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Grizzlies guard Marcus Smart will miss three to five weeks with a sprained left foot, adding to Memphis' already lengthy injury list.

The Grizzlies provided more details about Smart's injury Friday. The guard and the 2022 NBA Defensive Player of the Year, acquired via a trade this offseason, hurt his foot Tuesday night in a loss at the Los Angeles Lakers.

Smart ranks third on the Grizzlies scoring 12.5 points a game. He also leads Memphis with five assists and two steals per game, and he had been one of only four Grizzlies to play each of the first 11 games with Desmond Bane, Jaren Jackson Jr. and David Roddy.

Memphis already has two-time All-Star guard Ja Morant suspended for the first 25 games this season, and center Steven Adams was ruled out before the season started needing surgery for a knee first hurt last January. Brandon Clarke is busy recovering from a left Achilles tendon torn last March.

The Grizzlies also declared out Xavier Tillman Sr. with a left knee injury, Luke Kennard with a bone bruise in his left knee and rookie GG Jackson II (two-way transfer) for Saturday night's game at San Antonio. But guard Derrick Rose is questionable after missing seven games with an injured left knee.

Memphis, the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference each of the past two seasons, currently is last in the West with a 2-9 record.

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CORRESPONDENT

Priority Care dumps Marpac, faces PSS in finals

Priority Care advanced to play undefeated Public School System in the R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Government Business League final after thumping Marpac, 73-60, last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was a heated semifinal match, but it was obvious that the louder fans were for Priority Care during the game.

Priority Care gave them something to cheer about, as they came in hot with sweet-shooting Steve King leading the offense in the opening minutes.

By the end of the first quarter, Priority Care doubled up Marpac, 14-7.

Marpac's Coby Santos tried to rally his team in the second period. Frank Mettao also tried to be Santos' wingman and the duo carried the scoring cudgels for Marpac but they were still down by 11 points, 26-37, at the half.

Marpac rallied at the start of the second half, but Priority Care was still in the lead with King and Matthew Duenas humbling all defenses pitted against them and the latter entered the fourth and final quarter with a 52-46 spread.

At the end, Priority Care's Alfred Manglona's late-game offensive burst secured the 13-point win for his team.

Priority Care played PSS for all the marbles last night and the results will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune.*

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Priority Care's Marvin Rabauliman leaps to make a shot against Marpac during their R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Government Business League's semifinals game last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Priority Care 73 – King 25, Duenas 17, Rabauliman 11, Aldan 10, Manglona 6, Agulto 4.

Marpac 60 – Santos 21, Castro 13, G. Sablan 10, Mettao 8, Babauta 6, H. Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-7, 37-26, 52-46, 73-60.

PACIFIC

From page 20

Islands Pacific Games logo—three paddles in their country's colors.

Then, a paddle-shaped baton made its way around the track—passed by Solo the turtle, the 2023 Pacific Games mascot—and was placed into a waterfall that officially signaled the start of the Games, which will be on for the duration of it. The ceremony ended with a bang as a 30-minute firework show sent the athletes off

In his remarks, Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare recognized the 2023 Pacific Games Council who worked with the Games Organizing Committee, "to create a memorable event that reflects the solidarity of our people, of our country, and our region."

"It inspired countless thousands and villages in the farthest reaches of our country. Time and time again it has shown us the power of sports and games. We aspire to elevate, to give joy to our people as proud hosts of the 17th Pacific Games," he said.

"Preparing for these Games has been an experience of a lifetime. We have lived the theme of the 2023 Pacific Games. We faced multiple challenges; we celebrated our resilience; and through the games, we united our country. It is now our honor to hand the games over to the athletes of the Pacific. Challenge yourself, celebrate our Pacific diversity, and unite our region. May God bless and protect you as you participate in the 2023 Pacific Games," said Sogavare.

Before making the way to the stadium, each nation lined up in alphabetical order at a nearby training center and walked in order as a group before 7pm. At the stadium, the delegation was mistakenly led to the wrong area and had to double back behind New Caledonia.

The CNMI delegation was a stream of blue and was led by flagbearer and national team swimmer, Isaiah Aleksenko, who was interviewed by the local media just before CNMI's turn on stage.

After the CNMI walked across the field, they had front row seats to the action as they were seated alongside the track, facing the performances, and didn't waste time taking photos and video of the event.

After the opening ceremony, CNMI chef de mission Nick Gross said, "last night's opening was an incredible experience for Team NMI, the Solomons, and all in attendance! There were some long waiting times as approximately 3,500 athletes and officials were staged for the event, but the crowd and surrounding viewers were truly electric! I don't recall the exact number of people that took part in the performance but it was massive! The choreography along with the cultural relevance was spectacular! Congrats to the entire organizing committee along with the legacy that the Games will have on the Solomon Islands!"

The CNMI's Mark Toves, who was recording the team's parade, said that the opening ceremony was an "amazing experience."

"I've been to three games—the 1997 Micronesia Games in Palau, 1998 Arafura Games in Darwin, Australia, and 1999 South Pacific Games in Guam. Opening ceremonies will touch your heart because you're representing your country's essential moments, reflecting on your beliefs, hopes, traditions, culture, and spirituality. A ceremony can help to show people they are united as one with other Pacific islanders.

He shared that he and his wife, Catherine—who is the men's national soccer team's assistant manager—first met in the 1999 South Pacific Games on Guam as she represented the NMI women's volleyball team, and while he represented in the men's fast pitch softball team. "Now 24 years later we both get to witness our two sons, Merrick Toves and Markus, participate in XVII Pacific Games in football (soccer). I will forever cherish this moment."

Va'a's Dayna Macaranas was asked what she thought of the ceremony and said that "it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Solomons did a really good job at hosting all the athletes, the guests, and the dignitaries that were there—from the performances, the speeches, and the passing of the torch or paddles—it was an honor to be there and watch."

She said her favorite part was being able to represent the CNMI, and "just wave our flags or show that we are here and we're here to represent and we're here to compete. It's something that you don't normally get to do."

With how she felt as she and the team crossed the field and went on stage, she said, "I felt very prideful, but at the same time humbled because it's nice to see that all these people showed up and they came out—and the fact that they were given flags of the CNMI—that was really cool to see."

As of 5pm Saipan time, the CNMI currently was third in the medal standings with 1 gold, two silvers, and 1 bronze medal—all courtesy of weightlifter Ray Santos (see main story). Host nation Solomon Islands is atop the medal ladder with 3 golds, 5 silvers, and 2 bronze medals. Marshall Islands is second with 2 golds and 1 silver. Australia with 1 gold and Nauru with 3 bronze medals make up the rest of the nations that so far have won medals in the 2023 Pacific Games.

WEIGHTLIFTING'S

From page 20

Antonette Labausa, fellow weightlifter and coach, said "Ray looked crisp, and he was just moving so well. So I'm really, really happy for him… he's been training since we got here and I think he only rested on Sunday. Our sport is a lot different from everybody else's, so conservation of energy, it's important to save it for the competition.

She added, "I was expecting a gold of some sort and I'm really happy for him. He did all of the hard work and his preparation and I am proud of him, whatever color medal he got."

Team manager Greg Borja said he feels very proud of Santos' accomplishments. "He's put a lot of time and work into developing himself to get to this level. Last year, he was the Oceania champion as well, so he had a lot of pressure on him, and I'm really glad that he stepped up and was able to do what he did today—bringing home gold for Team NMI is something the weightlifting is always proud of—as well as bringing home silvers and bronze. I think it's great to add to CNMI's medal tally."

As for the awarding ceremony, the flag in the middle for the gold medalist was Marshall Islands' flag, so when Santos was awarded the gold medal for the snatch portion, Nick Gross, Team CNMI's chef de mission brought it up to the officials, but they said they couldn't change it because the overall winner was the Marshall Islands. As a result, the photos with Santos on the top podium had the Marshall Islands' flag as the backdrop, while silver had the NMI's flag.

LEIGH GASES

Ray Santos presses to complete his clean & jerk attempt in the 55kg division weightlifting competition yesterday afternoon at the Maranatha Hall, Honiara.

Registration open for Run Saipan Half Marathon, 5K

» Atkins Kroll Saipan is sponsor for half marathon and 5K

Run Saipan announced that registration is now open for the Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon and AK 5K Fun Run scheduled for Dec. 9, 2029. Atkins Kroll returns as the presenting sponsor and this year's event looks to be an even more exciting.

Registration will include different swag like a T-shirt, gear bag, finisher medal, sponsor gifts, raffles, and much more. Entry will also include an awards banquet at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. Come out and join the fun in either the Half Marathon or the 5K Fun Run!

Register online at: https://raceroster.com/events/2023/70413/2023-run-saipan-holiday-half-marathon-and-ak-5k-fun-run.

Last year, high school students from Agape Christian School finished 1-2-3 in the inaugural Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon 21K course that snaked from Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa and ended at Banzai Cliff in Marpi.

Racing past 68 other half marathon runners, Samuel Zhu, a 16-year-old sophomore; Stephen Chen, an 18-year-old junior; and Jireh Wang, a 16-year-old sophomore, were the Top 3 finishers after all three crossed the finish line under two hours.

Zhu won gold with his time of 1:51:07, followed by silver for Chen who clocked in at 1:51:46, and right at his heels a few seconds later, Wang came in for bronze with a time of 1:51:54.

The women's overall winner was Savannah Grant who clocked in at 2:05:56, while silver went to Rosemarie Chisato at 2:10:32, and Emma Pang came in third with a time of 2:12:59.

Pony Tang and Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez—both high school student-athletes—dominated 290 other runners in the 5.5K Fun Run presented by Atkins Kroll and Run Saipan in celebration of AK's 55 years of service also in Marpi.

Tang, a 16-year-old from Marianas High School and member of the MHS Run Club, raced through the finish line first overall with a time of 23:03, while Chavez from Saipan International School clocked in first in the women's division with a time of 25:09. ***(PR)***

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Priority Care's Marvin Rabauliman leaps to make a shot against Marpac during their R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Government Business League's semifinals game last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

2023 Honiara, Solomon Islands Pacific Games

LEIGH GASES

The CNMI delegation takes a group photo at the setup field before the opening ceremony of the 2023 Pacific Games at the National Sports Stadium in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

LEIGH GASES

The CNMI's flagbearer Isaiah Aleksenko leads the team on the track to their seats during the 2023 Pacific Games opening ceremony in the National Sports Stadium, Honiara.

LEIGH GASES

NMI chef de mission Nick Gross, third from left, along with NMI team members stand for the Solomon Islands national anthem during the opening ceremony of the 2023 Pacific Games.

LEIGH GASES

Team CNMI on the stage in the middle of the National Sports Stadium at the parade of teams of the 2023 Pacific Games opening ceremony.

LEIGH GASES

The NMI's va'a and tennis teams showed up in support of the Men's National Soccer Team during their Pacific Games debut against Fiji last Saturday in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

LEIGH GASES

The CNMI's Ray Santos is on the first-place podium during the awards ceremony after he won gold in the snatch portion of the men's 55-kg weightlifting competition yesterday at the Maranatha Hall, Honiara.

LEIGH GASES

NMI flagbearer Isaiah Aleksenko poses for a photo with a representative holding the Northern Mariana Islands name before they march in the opening ceremony parade of teams at the National Sports Stadium.

LEIGH GASES

Team NMI's goalkeeper Merrick Toves goes for a save during the first half of their game against Fiji in their Pacific Games debut last Saturday in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Durant scores 39 as Suns win double OT game against Jazz.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Priority Care dumps Marpac, faces PSS in finals.

PAGE 18

Weightlifting's Santos bags NMI's first medal

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—Weightlifter Ray Santos handed the CNMI its first gold medal in the 2023 Pacific Games and didn't stop there as he hauled in three more medals—two silver and one bronze in the 55-kg division weightlifting competition held at the Maranatha Hall yesterday afternoon.

Santos shot up just like the fireworks in the opening ceremony to successfully complete all three of his snatch lifts to secure the gold medal.

"Don't miss, don't miss, don't miss," Santos thought throughout his snatches and went on to successfully lift 90kg, second lift was 93kg, and topped it off with 96kg.

» Adds 2 silvers, 1 bronze medal

The silver went to Marshall Islands' Mike Riklon and bronze was Solomon Islands' Philip Masi.

Santos claimed bronze in the clean & jerk after failing two attempts with only a successful lift of 112kg. Riklon redeemed himself and won gold with 116kg, while Masi brought home silver with a 113kg lift.

Overall, Santos settled for the silver medal with a total weight lifted of 208kg. Riklon bagged gold with a 212kg total and Masi was bronze after he lifted 203kg total.

In the concurrent Oceania Weightlifting Championships, Santos won silver. Gold went to Riklon and the bronze medalist was Masi.

After the competition, Santos was asked how he felt bringing home the CNMI's first medal—and a gold at that—and he said, "I'm just happy to even place you know. I had to cut a lot of weight and my knees are not in the best shape. But you know, it is what it is. We're here, showed up, lifted the weight, and we made it to the podium. So, that's all that matters."

As for the competition, he said this year was a little more challenging. "They really pushed me but the best lifter was Marshall Islands today. We can't win everything—I wish I did, but it is what it is."

On how he felt during his lifts, he said he felt a rush of adrenaline and was hyped up throughout his snatches, but when it came to the clean & jerk portion, he said he could feel his knees acting up and felt tired.

He said his toughest competitor was Marshall Islands—the same as when he competed in the 2014 Micro Games. "I'm always behind Marshall Islands, I don't know why. But next time, I'm going to try to go for the record—110-kg snatch, 138-kg clean & jerk, and 248-kg total. That's my goal until I retire. Until I break the record, that's when I'll retire."

He then thanked Lone Fox, Health City Guam, Shirley's Catering, his family, along with his weightlifting team. "I wish my family was here cheering me on, but in spirit, they're here," he added.

He dedicates his win to Rep. T.J. Manglona and his family, who just lost his daughter a few months ago. "I did it for them. #mimiforever."

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LEIGH GASES

Weightlifting's Ray Santos shows off his four medals—one gold, two silvers, and one bronze—while holding Solo the Turtle, the 2023 Pacific Games mascot, during the awards ceremony in the 55kg division competition at the Maranatha Hall, Honiara.

LEIGH GASES

Ray Santos goes for a clean & jerk attempt during his men's 55kg weightlifting competition yesterday afternoon at the Maranatha Hall, Honiara.

Pacific Games opening ceremony unites, lights up Honiara

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—In a spectacular display of culture, unity, song and dance, and color, the Solomon Islands officially opened the 2023 Pacific Games last Sunday evening at the Solomon Islands National Stadium.

It was a grand gesture of welcome the over 100 strong CNMI delegation won't soon forget as the stadium was packed with over 10,000 spectators, dignitaries, athletes, officials, and performers who bore witness to a sharing of culture and official opening of the Games.

Samoa, who hosted the 2019 Pacific Games, led the parade of teams into the middle of the field, as 23 other nations followed for their turn in the spotlight—with the crowd cheering and waving each country's flag.

The parade ended with the host nation—the Solomon Islands, whose huge delegation overflowed onto the field in a sea of yellow, blue, and green—and were met with cheers and applause that lasted for more than 15 minutes.

Over 3,000 performers then took the field and held everyone captive for an hour as they showed off their cultural costumes and dances, culminating to create the 2023 Solomon

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LEIGH GASES

Flagbearer Isaiah Aleksenko leads the CNMI delegation through the field of the National Sports Stadium in Honiara during the four-hour opening ceremony of the 2023 Pacific Games last Sunday.

2023 PACIFIC GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS
(As of November 20, 2023 | 6:30PM)

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Solomon Islands	3	5	2	10
Marshall Islands	2	1	0	3
Northern Mariana Islands	1	1	2	4
Australia	1	0	0	1
Nauru	0	0	3	3
American Samoa	0	0	0	0
Cook Islands	0	0	0	0
Federated States of Micronesia	0	0	0	0
Fiji	0	0	0	0
Guam	0	0	0	0
Kiribati	0	0	0	0
New Caledonia	0	0	0	0
New Zealand	0	0	0	0
Niue	0	0	0	0
Norfolk Island	0	0	0	0
Palau	0	0	0	0
Papua New Guinea	0	0	0	0
Samoa	0	0	0	0
Tahiti	0	0	0	0
Tokelau	0	0	0	0
Tonga	0	0	0	0
Tuvalu	0	0	0	0
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0
Wallis and Futuna	0	0	0	0

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